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# NALANDA READERS

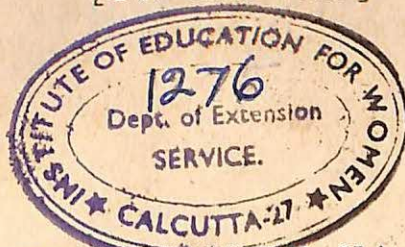
BOOK THREE

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# NALANDA READERS

BOOK THREE

[ For Class VIII ]



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*Revised Edition*

NALANDA PRESS

(PUBLICATION DEPARTMENT)

159-160, CORNWALLIS STREET, CALCUTTA 6

Price Re. 1/8/-.



PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY S. K. MITRA,  
NALANDA PRESS, 159-160, CORNWALLIS ST., CAL. 6



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# NALANDA READERS

## BOOK THREE

### GREAT-GRANDFATHER'S SCHOOL DAYS

*New Words :*

jolly	splendid	sampler	forms
brick	entry	stacked	introduced
skipped	germs	tallow	recite
recess	dodge	pail	dipped (dipper)

*New Idioms :*

call on                      in order

Great-grandfather Warren had come to make a visit. Ted and Anne were delighted. They were very fond of their great-grandfather. He was a bright, jolly person in spite of being almost eighty years old, and he always had interesting stories to tell.

The children called him "Greatest." That was partly because it was a shorter name than "great-grandfather" and partly to show that they thought Mr. Warren a splendid person, as, indeed, he was.

"We are going to have a swimming pool in our school," said Ted, as soon as Great-grandfather was seated and all ready for a talk.

"Have what?" asked Great-grandfather in a surprised voice.



“A swimming pool,” said Ted, “and a place to play basket ball, and a playground, and—

“My class is going to have cooking lessons,” said Anne. “The new school has the nicest kitchen I ever saw. The sewing room is fine, too. I shall be so glad when we move in.”

“It seems strange to me,” said Great-grandfather, “to think of all these things in a school. But I am glad that you have them. I have learned to swim in a river, and my mother taught my sisters to cook and sew. I have a sampler that my sister Martha made. Everyone would have laughed when I was a boy at the idea of learning to swim at school or to cook either.

“How many rooms did your school have, Great-grandfather?” asked Anne.

“Just one room,” said Great-grandfather.

“One room!” said Ted. “Where were the other forms?”

“All the forms were in that one room,” replied Great-grandfather. “When I first went to school, I was five years old. One of my schoolmates was only four. There were boys and girls in the school, seventeen or eighteen years old, too, and of all the ages between. About thirty children came to this school. One teacher taught us all.

"I lived in a small town. It was divided into parts called 'districts.' There was one school for each district and one teacher for each school.

"Our school was old even when I went to it. My father had gone to it when he was a boy. It was built of brick. So it had lasted pretty well.

"When we came to school in the morning, we went first into a small room, called an 'entry.' Here we hung our hats and coats. Wood was stacked up at one end of the entry. This was to burn in the stove that kept the school warm in winter.

"In one corner of the entry was a low shelf. A water pail stood on this shelf and a dipper hung beside the water pail. A child who wanted to drink dipped the dipper into the pail of water. Then he drank out of it."

"Weren't you afraid of germs?" asked Anne.

"I had never heard of germs at that time," said Great-grandfather. "I suppose I must have met a good many, though, without being introduced.

"In the morning, we all played outside until the teacher came to the door and rang a bell. He always did this to call us in. When it rang, we went inside. We hung up our caps and coats and went to our seats."



“There was no real playground, but no one seemed to mind our playing on the land about the school. At recess, we sometimes played in the sandy road in front. People came along once in a while, driving horses or oxen. We didn’t have to dodge automobiles in those days.

“But let us go back to the schoolroom. It was a long room. Behind the benches where the bigger boys and girls sat was another row of lower benches without desks. These were for the little boys and girls. None of the benches had backs; so the school was a pretty tiresome place for small children.

“There were windows on both sides of the school, and so the room had enough light. But no one worried in those days about what direction the light came from.

“The teacher would call on a class to recite. Then all the boys and girls in that class came to the open space in the middle of the room. They stood in a straight line, and if the class was large, the boys and girls stood in two lines facing one another. Sometimes the teacher called on one pupil after another, just as they stood in line. Sometimes he didn’t call on them in any regular order.

“We had one teacher who always asked the questions in order as they came in the book. He



always called on the children in order, too. One lazy boy in the class used to count the questions. Then he would study only those that he would be called on to answer.

"One day, in the geography class, the teacher skipped a question when he came to this boy. Instead of asking, 'What are the principal products of Venezuela?' he asked, 'For what are the ladies of Brazil noted?' This was the next question and the answer was, 'For their beauty.' Poor Alf did not stop to think, and answered at once, 'Tallow, hides, and horn'!"

"Did you have many teachers, Greatest?" asked Anne, when she had stopped laughing.

"Well," said Great-grandfather, "we had a great many different teachers. We usually had a man teacher in winter and a woman teacher at other times."

"Why was that?" asked Ted.

"The big boys worked on the farms in warm weather and went to school in winter. Some of them thought it was fun to act badly at school. So people thought they had to have a man teacher in winter, because he could whip the big boys if they were too troublesome."

"Did you ever get a whipping, Greatest?" asked Ted.

"Yes, once or twice," said Great-grandfather.

—JEAN AYER

## NOTES

### I. Grammatical :

In 'swimming pool', the adjective, *swimming* stands for preposition + gerund. It is called Gerundial Adjective. 'Sewing' is pronounced 'sowing'.

In the sentence, 'my mother taught my sisters to cook and sew', the verb 'taught' has two objects,— 'sisters' (indirect) and 'to cook and sew' (direct).

In 'A child who wanted to drink dipped the dipper,' 'dipper' is the cognate object of the verb, 'dipped'. 'Whipping' is a gerund.

### II. General :

'Sampler' is a piece of embroidery worked by a girl as a specimen of proficiency and generally preserved and displayed on the wall.

'Forms' means 'classes in a school'.

## EXERCISES

I. (a) What did the children call their great-grandfather and why?

~~1975~~ (b) Describe a school of old days.

(c) What was the answer given by the lazy boy to the question, "For what are the ladies of Brazil noted?" Why was such an answer given?

II. (a) Analyse the following sentences:—

(i) The sewing room is fine, too.

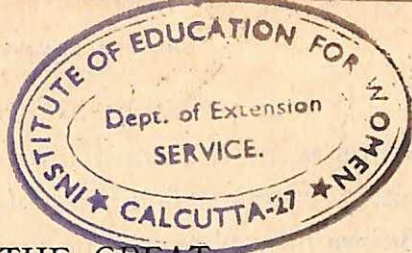
(ii) I learned to swim in a river.

(iii) About thirty children came to this school.

(b) Change the following from the direct to the indirect form of narration:—

"I had never heard of germs at that time," said Great-grandfather.





## ALFRED THE GREAT

### *New Words :*

repeat	epilepsy	ravages	accession
overcome	bribes	beggary	disguise
pilgrim	refuge	hearth	mused
desperate	solemn	persuaded	superintended
baptized	monasteries	compilation	fortresses
repulsed	navy	pillage	endurance

### *New Idioms :*

in vain	buying off	in earnest	take turns
take refuge in			

King Alfred of England was a grandson of Egbert, the great king of the West Saxons and was born in Berkshire. His history shows what a good and wise man can do under great difficulties.

As quite a little child Alfred used to repeat old Saxon poems to his mother, who said one day, "The one among you, children, who can first say this book by heart shall have it"; and the story goes that little Alfred carried the book to his teacher, and, when he had learned it, repeated to his mother. If this be true, it must have happened before the boy was four years old, for at that age his father sent him to Rome, and he never saw his own mother again.



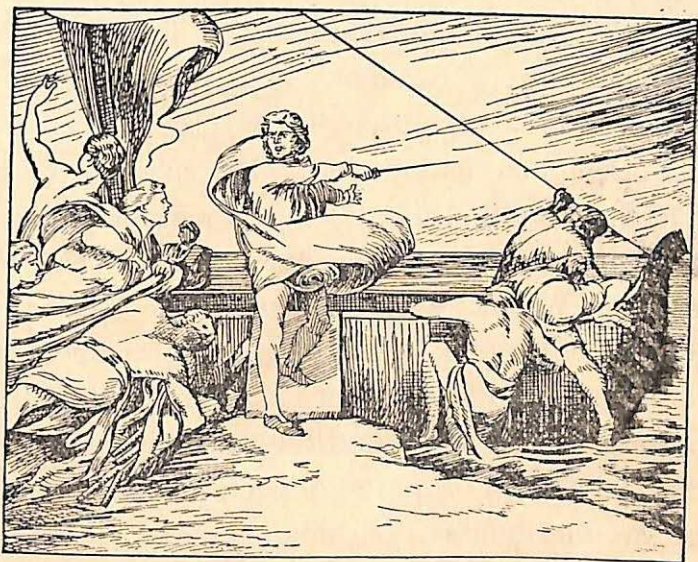
It was probably in Rome, where Alfred afterwards went a second time with his father, that he learnt much which was of use to him afterwards. Before he was twenty he married happily, but he had to struggle against ill health and attacks of epilepsy, and was only twenty-two when he became king over a country laid waste by the ravages of the Danes.

Within a month of his accession he fought a battle against the Danes, but was defeated; and from that time he struggled in vain to overcome them, sometimes fighting, sometimes buying them off. But in spite of bribes the Danes came in endless numbers over the sea. The monks and clergy, turned out of their homes by the invaders, wandered about the country, or carried off their treasures to the continent; the people were worn out and reduced to beggary, and the land was laid waste.

At last, in 878 A.D., after seven years' ceaseless fighting, Alfred was so completely defeated at Chippenham, in Wiltshire, that he was forced to fly in disguise into the woods and marshes of Somersetshire. But he would not leave the country, as the king of Mercia had done, to die a pilgrim in Rome. His people were in distress, and he must help them.

It is at this time that Alfred is said to have taken refuge in a swineherd's cottage, where he let the good

woman's cakes burn on the hearth, as he mused how to save his country. At any rate, he mused to good purpose, and gradually collecting a band of faithful friends, he set forth in the spring to reconquer his kingdom.



ALFRED ROUSING THE SAXONS AGAINST THE DANES

As he went, men flocked to his standard; and, after a desperate struggle, he completely defeated the Danes at Edington, and made their leader, Guthrum, enter into a solemn treaty at Wedmore.



By this treaty the Danes got all Northumbria and East Anglia, together with a part of Mercia called the Five Boroughs of the Danes, and this tract of the country became known as the Danelaw or Danelagh. Alfred kept only Wessex and part of Mercia. But he had gained peace for the sorely-troubled land, and as Guthrum was baptized a Christian, together with many of his nobles, the Danes and the English settled down more happily together.

Alfred now set himself to govern Wessex well and to strengthen his kingdom. He collected the old laws of the English, and adding to them the ten commandments and some of the laws of Moses, he persuaded the Witan to adopt them as the law of the land, and took great pains to see that justice was done to the rich and the poor alike. He restored the monasteries and schools and built new ones, inviting learned men from all parts to teach in them; among them was the famous Welshman, Asser.

Alfred himself superintended the palace school for nobles, and encouraged every free-born youth who could afford it to "abide by his book till he can well understand English." He translated Bede's "History" and other works into English, and prepared selections for the scholars; and under his direction the compilation of the Saxon Chronicle was begun in



earnest. Thus he became 'the Father of English Prose,' for till then all books, except the old Saxon poems and Caedmon's songs, had been in Latin..

Nor was his work merely among books. He divided his people into two parts, to take turns in going into battle and in guarding the homesteads, while he kept one troop always under arms to defend the fortresses. He built ships, by which he repulsed a severe attack by the Danes, and which formed the beginning of the English navy. He rebuilt London, which had been nearly destroyed by fire and pillage. He encouraged travellers to go to Norway, Jerusalem and even India.

Alfred set his people an example of industry, self-denial and patient endurance, and won their affection as no king had done before him. His day was divided into regular duties; candles burning each two hours marked the time devoted to prayer, to learning, or to active work. His was a deeply religious mind, and he educated his children to a high sense of duty. He had a large family, of whom two were important in history—Ethelfleda, who married an 'ealdorman,' and, as a widow, governed Mercia; and Edward, who succeeded him to the throne when he died in 901 A.D.

ARABELLA B. BUCKLEY (*Adapted*)

## NOTES

## I. Grammatical :

In 'King Alfred of England was a grandson of Egbert, the great king of the West Saxons,' 'grandson' is the subjective complement of the intransitive verb, 'was' and 'king', in the phrase, 'the great king' is in apposition to 'Egbert.'

## II. General :

'Witan'—the assembly of elders which helped the king with its counsel in Anglo-Saxon days.

'Ealdormen' = eldersmen = aldermen.

## EXERCISES

- I. (a) Give a brief account of Alfred's conflict with the Danes.  
 1975 (b) ✓ State what steps were taken by Alfred for the well-being of his subjects.  
 (c) ✓ Mention some of the noble traits in the character of Alfred. How did he spend his days?
- II. (a) Change the verbs in the following sentences from the passive to the active voice:—  
 (i) Alfred was completely defeated by the Danes at Chippenham.  
 (ii) He was forced to fly in disguise into the woods.  
 (b) Transform the following sentence from assertive to interrogative:—  
 He restored the monasteries and schools and built new ones.  
 (c) Analyse the following sentence, dividing it into separate clauses and say whether it is compound or complex:—  
 Within a month of his accession he fought a battle against the Danes, but was defeated, and from that time he struggled in vain to overcome them.



## KARL AND THE TREASURE CAVE

### *New Words :*

<b>pancakes</b>	<b>coarse</b>	<b>rustling</b>	<b>shelter</b>	<b>gaze</b>
<b>galloping</b>	<b>diamonds</b>	<b>secret</b> ✓	<b>jewels</b>	<b>emerald</b>
<b>fare</b>	<b>courteously</b>	<b>treasure</b>	<b>rubies</b>	<b>pearls</b>
<b>enriched</b>	<b>flushed</b>	<b>stammered</b>	<b>extraordinary</b> ✓	
<b>splendid</b> ✓	<b>steep</b>	<b>dense</b>	<b>azure</b>	
<b>yawning</b>	<b>hesitation</b>	<b>corner</b>	<b>guessed</b>	
<b>floor</b>	<b>awe</b>	<b>gleaming</b>	<b>gallop</b>	

### *New Idioms :*

**set off      from time to time      on and on      near by**

A small boy named Karl lived near the wild sea-coast of Northern Germany.

Karl's father, a fisherman, was a cheerful man who found pleasure in most things that he did.

But Karl was a dreamy and rather unhappy lad. His father often took him to the town, and there Karl was invited, from time to time, to play with Ernst, a boy of his own age who lived in a beautiful home, and possessed all the toys and gifts that money could buy.

When Karl returned from the large house, he used to look round the poor cottage in which he lived, and long to be a rich boy like Ernst.

In this mood he was sitting by the fireside one winter evening, while his mother made pancakes of



coarse flour for supper, and his father worked peacefully at his nets.

Outside there was the sound of the waves breaking on the sea-shore, and the forest rustling on the wild hillside.

But suddenly a stranger sound was heard, a sound that came nearer and nearer, and seemed like the wild gallop of a horseman.

In a few minutes there was a sharp knock on the door. Karl sprang up and ran to answer it. In the doorway stood a tall stranger who begged to speak to the master of the house.

The fisherman came forward and courteously invited him to walk in.

✓ The stranger entered and said, "I am a foreigner from a country beyond the seas, and I have lost my way in your wild forests. I must beg a night's shelter for my horse and for myself."

"Sir," said the fisherman, "you are welcome to our poor house, and all that we can give you."

Karl went out with a lantern and led the stranger's horse into a shed near the cottage, while the fisherman's wife quickly prepared supper, and set before the unknown visitor the best fare she could provide.

After he had eaten, the stranger drew his chair

near the fire and began to talk pleasantly. He asked many questions about the forest, and wished to know if they had ever heard of a treasure cave hidden among the tall, dark pines.

"To be sure," answered the fisherman, "I have heard an old tale about rubies and pearls and diamonds being hidden in a secret cave, but I do not know that anyone has ever seen them."

"I came hither," said the stranger, "because an old sailor in my own country bade me seek a treasure cave in your forest. He told me that in that cave there are the most wonderful jewels ever seen by mortal eyes. ✍

"But the sailor said something very strange. He said that if a man were content to gaze on the jewels and come away without touching them, his life would be enriched with more joy and beauty than money can buy."

"That is, indeed, extraordinary," the fisherman exclaimed. "I think few men could gaze on such wondrous jewels as you describe and leave them untouched."

"I agree with you," laughed the stranger. "I know that if I have the luck to find myself in the cave I shall take away as many precious stones as I can carry."



✓ Karl was listening eagerly to the story, and the stranger, looking into his shining eyes, asked, "What about you, my little friend? Wouldn't you take a share of the jewels?"

Karl flushed and stammered, "I—I don't know, sir."

In the morning the stranger rose early and set off for the forest to search, he said, for the treasure cave.

For several nights, as they sat round their cottage fire, the fisherman and his wife talked of their visitor.

Karl said nothing, but stared into the fire and thought what a splendid thing it would be if he could enter the cave and find the rich treasure lying within it.

The idea did not leave him, and one day he went out into the forest and began to search among the tall, dark pines for any rocky place where a cave might be found.

He wandered on and on, climbing steep hillsides, going where the forest was dense and dark. He marched on and on, peering everywhere, hoping to see some dark cave yawning near by. ✓

He pushed his way through biers and bushes,



and all at once, in a dim, thickly-wooded part of the forest, he saw an opening in a steep bank.



KARL IN THE TREASURE CAVE

Without any hesitation he crept into it. The passage seemed to be lighted from within, for it was not dark at all. Karl marched boldly on, and then,

turning a sharp corner, he found himself in a lofty chamber cut from a huge, underground rock.

The whole place was flooded by the most lively, glowing colours that Karl had ever seen. Flames of gold and silver, rose and emerald, danced in the cave, and the light came from a pile of wondrous jewels heaped up in the middle of the floor.

Karl moved nearer to that splendid pile, and gazed on it in awe. He knew that the precious stones in front of him, gleaming with every colour of the rainbow, were worth a fortune. If he took but a handful he would be rich all the days of his life—far richer than Ernst!

And then, suddenly, the memory of those strange words spoken by the sailor came back to his mind, (“If a man were content to gaze on the jewels, and come away without touching them, his life would be enriched with more joy and beauty than money can buy.”)

Karl paused and thought within himself, “After all, I would rather be happy than rich.”

(Again Karl looked at the dancing light on the walls and the glow of silver and gold, rose and emerald and azure, and he said to himself, “If I take away the jewels that lovely light will fade. What a pity!”)



Then, quite suddenly, he turned his back on the treasure and walked out of the cave. He found his way home, and told nothing of his adventure to his parents.

From that day Karl was a changed boy. No one could understand what had happened to him, but there was always a light of joy and happiness in his eyes.

When he grew up it seemed as if some magic power within him enabled him to write stories and poems that charmed all who listened to them.

(No one ever guessed the real secret of his life, namely that, because he had left the jewels in the cave untouched, their rainbow light and glowing beauty had entered into his soul.)

STELLA MEAD (*Adapted*)

## NOTES

### I. Grammatical :

In 'an old sailor bade me seek', the verb 'seek' is in the infinitive mood, 'to' being understood after the verb, 'bade.'

In 'if a man were content to gaze . . . his life would be enriched' the verbs, 'were', and 'would be' are in the subjunctive mood expressing a condition and its consequence. In the subjunctive mood the past form of verbs refers, not to the past but, to present or future contingencies. Subjunctive verbs, in the present tense, of subjects in the third person and singular number, often take the plural form.



## EXERCISES

- 19 I75(a) What was the story told by the stranger about the treasure cave? Who had told him the story?
- (b) Why did not Karl take the jewels? How was he rewarded for his restraint?
- II. (a) Analyse the following sentence, splitting it up into its clauses:—  
He was a cheerful man who found pleasure in most things that he did.
- (b) Change the form of the narration:—  
The stranger entered and said, "I am a foreigner from a country beyond the seas, and I have lost my way in the forests. I must beg a night's shelter for my horse and for myself."

## WHAT MEN LIVE BY

### *New Words :*

<b>twin</b>	<b>sot</b>	<b>price</b>	<b>senseless</b>	<b>naked</b>
<b>cloak</b>	<b>annoyed</b>	<b>fury</b>	<b>ineffably</b>	<b>tiptoe</b>
<b>customers</b>	<b>miracles</b>	<b>stupefied</b>	<b>stranger</b>	<b>orphans</b>
<b>obstinate</b>	<b>excitedly</b>	<b>restored</b>	<b>collapsed</b>	<b>halo</b>
<b>retreating</b>	<b>beamed</b>	<b>awe</b>	<b>absolved</b>	
<b>recognised</b>		<b>countenance</b>	<b>jail</b>	

### *New Idioms :*

**held her breath**                      **in store for**

Simon was a poor shoemaker who lived in a small village in Russia. He was a simple and honest man. His wife, Matryona, was also a good woman who helped her husband.

It was winter. As Simon had no coat, he went one day to the town to buy a warm coat for himself.

But he could not buy a coat as the price was higher than what he could pay. So he was returning home without any coat, when he found a man lying almost senseless on the snow. Simon lifted him up, put his own cloak round him and brought him to his own home.

Matryona was annoyed. She thought that her husband had brought in a drunken sot and she began to chide him.



Simon was silent. He made the man sit on a bench by the fireside and patiently bore all the ill words of his wife.

The stranger did not utter a single word all the while. Matryona in her fury came nearer the man. She noticed his strange appearance.

Then she, too, began to feel pity for him. Hastily she brought a cup of tea and said, "Drink it, man; this will help to make you warm."

The stranger took the cup from the hands of Matryona. As he did so he smiled ineffably.

What a smile! Matryona held her breath in wonder. She ran at once to her husband and cried, "He smiles, he smiles! Have you seen him smile, Simon? And what a smile! As if the sun shone behind his eyes!"

But the stranger did not smile again.

Simon and his wife were very kind to the stranger and in a day or two he felt all right. But he would not leave Simon's house. So he stayed on and began to help Simon in his trade.

But very seldom did the man speak a word. All that Simon and Matryona could gather was that his name was Michael. They knew nothing else.

Years passed. Michael made shoes for Simon

and they were the best in the market. So the number of Simon's customers grew.

One day Simon and Michael were working at their tables. Simon saw a nobleman coming out of a carriage. He stopped just before Simon and said,

"Are you Simon, the master shoe-maker?"

"Yes, sir," said Simon politely.



THE NOBLEMAN BEFORE SIMON

The nobleman had a servant with him who carried a piece of fine leather in his hand. The nobleman showed it to Simon and said, "Can you make me a pair of fine shoes with this leather?"

Simon said that he could.

"But, you see," said the nobleman, "it is a very costly piece of leather. If you make bad shoes with



it or spoil the leather anyhow, I shall have you sent to jail."

Simon was a little afraid. But he knew that Michael could work wonders. So he agreed to all that the nobleman had said.

As the nobleman was going away the silent Michael attracted his notice. He came up to Michael and said, "Well, fellow, mind your business well. If you spoil my leather your master goes to jail."

Michael was silent. But suddenly he stood up from his seat, looked in the face of the man and smiled for the second time.

The nobleman felt very uneasy before his smile. He did not speak further and hurried out of the house.

Simon and Matryona saw that wonderful smile. They gazed at Michael in wonder.

After a while Simon came quietly up to Michael, giving him the piece of leather and asking him to make a pair of shoes as the nobleman had ordered.

At this Michael took up his scissors and cut the piece into two equal parts. He then went on cutting as he liked. At this Simon felt very uncomfortable and cried out in horror, "What have you done, man? You have spoiled the leather!"

He took the leather in his own hand and saw that Michael had cut it for a pair of slippers. He was stupefied.

But Michael went on with the sewing. He must make the slippers. Simon had never seen him so obstinate.

But a greater surprise was in store for Simon. The servant of the nobleman rushed into the room again and said excitedly, "While going in the carriage, my master collapsed all on a sudden. He does not require shoes any longer. What he now requires is a pair of slippers. So stop making shoes and make slippers instead, for the dead man."

Saying this the servant departed. Simon stood speechless in wonder. He simply kept on looking at Michael. But there was not the slightest change in the countenance of Michael. He was working with the slippers, silent as ever.

A few days after this Simon and Michael were working together when a woman with two little girls entered the house. The woman wanted to have shoes made for the two girls. It seemed that she was very fond of the girls. Matryona, who was sitting by, asked the woman if the girls were her daughters.

"No," said the woman, "they are not my daughters. They are the twin daughters of one of



my neighbours. Their father had died before they were born, and their mother died just after their birth."

"But how," asked Matryona, "did they come to you?"

"I had," went on the woman, "given birth to a child a few days before. So I brought the orphans



THE WOMAN WITH THE GIRLS BEFORE SIMON

and nursed them with my own child. But my poor boy died before he was two years old. So these were the only children left to me. And they are so dear little things! I cannot even dream that they are not

my own children." So saying the woman kissed the girls who stood by her side.

, After this the woman placed her orders with Simon and went away.

She had no sooner gone than Simon and Matryona found Michael standing tiptoe and looking at the retreating woman. There was the same wonderful smile on his lips. His whole face beamed, as it were, with the light of heaven. There was also a halo round his head.

Simon and Matryona cried out in wonder, "Michael, Michael! what's all this! who are you?"

"I am an angel from heaven," Michael spoke this time; "I was punished by God. To-day I am absolved."

Both husband and wife held their breath in awe. At last Simon gathered courage and said, "But why did you smile a moment ago?"

"Yes, I smiled just now," said the angel, "as I had smiled twice before in your house. I was sent to the world to learn three things, and each time I learnt a thing, I smiled."

"And what are the three things you learnt from the world?" Simon made bold to ask.

"Listen then," said the angel, "I am an angel of heaven. God ordered me once to take the soul of



a woman who was to die that day. I came down to the world and went to the woman. She had given birth to two little girls just a few minutes before. The woman recognized me as an angel of God. She wept to think that she would have to leave her babies. So she prayed to be spared till they were big enough to take care of themselves. I felt pity for the woman and went back to God without her soul. God was angry at my disobedience and punished me."

"Go again to the world and fetch the woman's soul," He said, "and learn three things, namely, *What dwells in man; what is not given to man; and what men live by.*"

"So I came down to the world again, and took the woman's soul. But as I was rising up with the soul, it escaped me and went up alone to heaven, and I began to fall down.

"I lay senseless by the roadside, and was almost dying. But you, Simon, took pity on me and brought me to your home; you, Matryona, though angry at first, were very kind to me, and gave me a cup of tea that restored my life."

"And then you smiled for the first time, good Angel!" put in Matryona.

"Yes," said the angel, "it was the first time that I smiled, because then I learnt the first thing, the first

truth that God had asked me to learn. I learnt that what dwells in man is love. It was love that made Simon bring me here. It was love that made you give me the cup of tea."

"Do you remember when I smiled the second time?" continued the angel.

"Yes, the day on which the nobleman came to our place," said Simon.

"Yes," went on the angel, "the nobleman wanted to have a pair of shoes. But when he came near me, I stood up and saw one of my brother angels standing behind him. I knew that the angel had come to take his soul. The man was to die in a few minutes. Yet he wanted a pair of shoes! So I learnt the second truth that I had been asked by God to learn, namely that, man does not know what he really needs."

"And what was the third truth that you learnt?" asked Simon.

"The third truth I learnt just now," said the angel, "from the woman who came a few minutes ago with the two little girls. As the woman came, I knew at once that these little girls were the daughters of the woman whose soul I was ordered to take by God. I had feared at that time that the children would die if their mother died. But there is love in



men and the orphans live by the love of a kind stranger. Thus I learnt the third truth, namely that, man lives by love."

As the angel finished his story, a strange light fell on him from heaven, and presently he disappeared above the clouds.

*Adapted from* COUNT LEO TOLSTOY

### NOTES

#### I. Grammatical :

In 'He was a simple and honest man,' 'man' is the subjective complement of the intransitive verb, 'was'.

'And what a smile!' is an interjection expressing surprise. 'Folk' is singular in form but plural in use; 'folks' is also used.

'Shoes' is generally used in the plural, the singular form being rarely used. 'Scissors' is always used in the plural.

'Orders' in the sense of 'commissions to purchase or sell something' is used in the plural.

#### II. General :

In 'Drink it, man', 'it' stands not for 'cup' but for 'the contents of the cup.'

'Was stupefied'—almost lost his senses in horror.

'Absolved'—freed from sins.

### EXERCISES

I. (a) Who was Michael? (b) Why was God angry with him?

(c) How did God punish Michael?

(d) What were the three things that Michael learnt in the world?

II. (a) Change the voice of the verbs in the following sentence:  
She noticed his strange appearance.

(b) Pick out three examples of the subjective complement from the lesson.

## A BARGAIN AT THE FAIR

### *New Words :*

fair (n)	intentions	prevail	<u>discreet</u>	permit
toilet	<u>higgles</u>	bargain	opinion	deal
commission	<u>colt</u>	<u>bawling</u>	depend	gross
lightning	thunder	<u>stuff</u>	blockhead	bundle
advantage	paltry	varnished	sauce-pan	idiot
rims	imposed			

### *New Idioms :*

**A fig for**

**imposed upon**

As the fair happened on the following day, I had intentions of going myself; but my wife persuaded me that I had got a cold, and nothing could prevail upon her to permit me from home.

"No my dear," said she, "our son, Moses is a discreet boy, and can buy and sell to very good advantage. He always stands out and higgles, and actually tires people till he gets a bargain."

As I had some opinion of my son's prudence, I was willing enough to entrust him with this commission; and the next

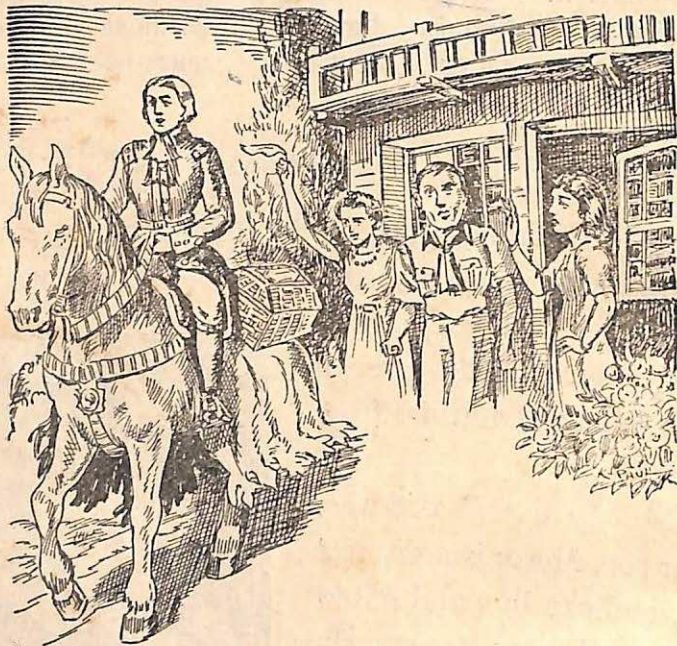


OLIVER GOLDSMITH



morning I saw his sisters mighty busy in fitting him out for the fair.

The business of the toilet being over, we had at last the satisfaction of seeing him mounted on the colt, with a deal box before him to bring in groceries



MOSES STARTS FOR THE FAIR

home. He had a coat on, made of that cloth known as thunder and lightning, which, though grown too short, was much too good to be thrown away. We all followed him several paces from the door, bawling after him good luck, till we could see him no longer.

It was almost nightfall when I began to wonder what could keep our son so long at the fair.

"Never mind our son," said my wife, "depend upon it, he knows what he is about. I have seen him buy such bargains as would amaze one. But as I live, yonder comes Moses, without a horse, and the box at his back."

As she spoke, Moses came slowly on foot, and sweating under the deal box.

"Welcome, welcome, Moses; well, my boy, what have you brought us from the fair?"

"I have brought you myself," cried Moses, with a sly look.

"Ah, Moses," cried my wife, "that we know, but where is the horse?"

"I have sold him," cried Moses, "for three pounds, five shillings and two pence."

"Well done, my good boy," returned she. "Between ourselves, three pounds, five shillings and two pence is no bad day's work. Come, let us have the money then."

"I have brought back no money," cried Moses again. "I have laid it all out in a bargain, and here it is," said he, pulling out a bundle from his breast. "Here they are: a gross of green spectacles with silver rims."



"A gross of green spectacles!" repeated my wife in a faint voice. "And you have parted with the colt, and brought us back nothing but a gross of green paltry spectacles!"

"Dear mother," cried the boy, "why don't you listen to reason? The silver rims alone will sell for double the money."

"A fig for the silver rims," cried my wife in a passion. "I dare swear they will sell only as broken silver at the rate of five shillings an ounce."

"You need be under no uneasiness," cried I, "about selling the rims; they are not worth even six pence, for they are only copper varnished over."

"What," cried my wife, "the rims not silver!"

"No," cried I, "no more silver than your saucepan."

"And so," returned she, "we have parted with the colt, and have only a gross of green spectacles with copper rims! The blockhead has been imposed upon, and should have known his company better."

"There, my dear," cried I, "you are wrong: he should not have known them at all."

"Hang the idiot," returned she, "to bring me such stuff! If I had them I would throw them into the fire."

“There again you are wrong, my dear,” cried I;  
 “for though they are copper, we will keep them by  
 us, as copper spectacles are better than nothing.”

OLIVER GOLDSMITH (*Adapted*),

### NOTES

#### Grammatical :

‘A fig for’ is an interjectional phrase expressing contempt.  
 ‘Penny’ has two plural forms—‘pence’, used in the  
 collective sense, meaning ‘value or amount’ and ‘pennies’,  
 used in a distributive sense, meaning ‘separate coins.’  
 ‘Three pounds, five shillings and two pence’ is taken as  
 a unit of value, and treated as singular in number; so, the  
 singular verb, ‘is’ follows it.

### EXERCISES

- I. <sup>1975</sup>  
 (a) What opinion had the mother of Moses about her son's  
 cleverness? Did his father also hold the same opinion?  
<sup>1975</sup>  
 (b) What did the mother of Moses mean by saying that  
 he should have known his company better?  
<sup>1975</sup>  
 (c) What did the father of Moses advise his mother to do  
 with the green spectacles?
- II. (a) Change the voice of the verbs in the following sentences:  
 (i) I have laid it all out in a bargain.  
 (ii) The blockhead has been imposed upon.  
 (b) Change the form of the narration of the following  
 sentence:—  
 “Dear mother,” cried the boy, “why won't you  
 listen to reason? The silver rims alone will sell for  
 double the money.”



## MARCO POLO

### *New Words :*

<u>maritime</u>	asbestos	<u>fantastic</u>	fuel	<u>clashes</u>
<u>sapphires</u>	spices	<u>camphor</u>	textile	<u>local</u>
<u>officials</u>	stretched	<u>remote</u>	museums	monks
<u>polish</u>	curiosity	<u>passion</u>	<u>species</u>	perils
<u>centuries</u>	<u>missions</u>	<u>torrential</u>	<u>swaying</u>	<u>gorges</u>
mentions	patrols	<u>longed</u>	volume	<u>ceased</u>
<u>tattered</u>	<u>undaunted</u>	<u>ripped</u>	<u>gallant</u>	convince
<u>reluctantly</u>	<u>tumbled</u>	<u>stouter</u>	<u>marvellous</u>	
<u>dictated</u>	<u>scribe</u>	<u>galley</u>	<u>avalanches</u>	

### *New Idioms :*

took a fancy for  
passion for

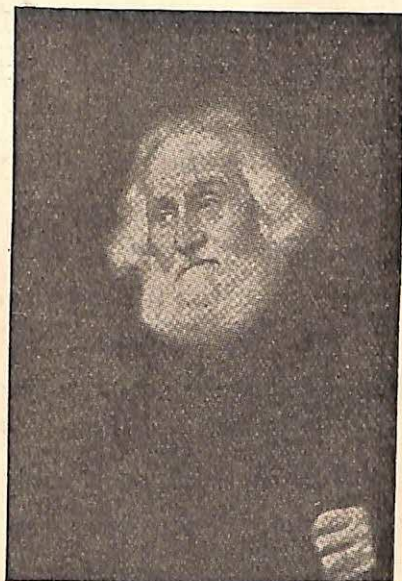
as luck would have it  
bride-elect

About seven hundred years ago a child was born in a noble family of Venice. His name was Marco Polo, and he became one of the greatest travellers that the world has ever seen.

Marco Polo travelled widely in the Far East and in the tales of his marvellous travels the people of Europe had their first knowledge of the East.

These tales took their breath away. Marco Polo talked of a black rock he had seen dug up in China and set afire—a fuel that burned longer than wood. The Venetians roared with laughter; to them coal was fantastic. He told them of another kind of rock from which could be spun a wool that did not

burn—and they held their sides. Asbestos was harder still to imagine. Nor would they believe him when he described a fountain in the Caucasus which flowed not with water but with oil. They could not even dream of the oil-fields of Baku.



MARCO POLO

Venice, in the thirteenth century, was the greatest maritime trading power in Europe. (From India she obtained pearls, diamonds and sapphires that made her the richest state in Europe. And from China came spices, camphor and, above all, silk,—the most beautiful and costly textile in the world.



Yet few Venetians had ever seen the lands whence the riches came.)

But there were two Venetian traders with stouter hearts than others. They were Nicolo and Maffeo Polo, father and uncle of Marco. While trading in southern Russia they found their return home cut off by a local war. Since they could not go back, they boldly resolved to push forward to the unknown Orient, and thus they reached the great city of Bokhara, in the heart of Central Asia. One day there came to them officials of the great emperor, Kublai Khan whose vast empire stretched from the Arctic Sea to the Indian Ocean and from the shores of the Pacific to the borders of Central Europe. The emperor had invited the Polos to come to his remote capital in China, and they gladly accepted the offer.

The Polo brothers returned home after an absence of nine years. But they did not come to stay. Kublai Khan had sent them with a letter to the Pope, requesting the latter to send learned monks to China to teach the Chinese the arts and sciences of Europe.

In their return journey to China with the monks, the Polo brothers took with them Marco, then a youth of seventeen years. Thus did Marco Polo embark on an adventure which was to keep him away from home for twenty-five years. The monks

turned back at the first hint of danger, but Marco, the youngest member of the party, was undaunted. 1915 (Young Marco had the youthful polish of his times as well as a lively curiosity and a memory that stored all he learned in an orderly fashion.)

From Marco's account of his travels, it must have been the spring of 1274 when he first saw the valley of the Oxus, in Central Asia. His account of his travel is as fresh to-day as on the day he made it.

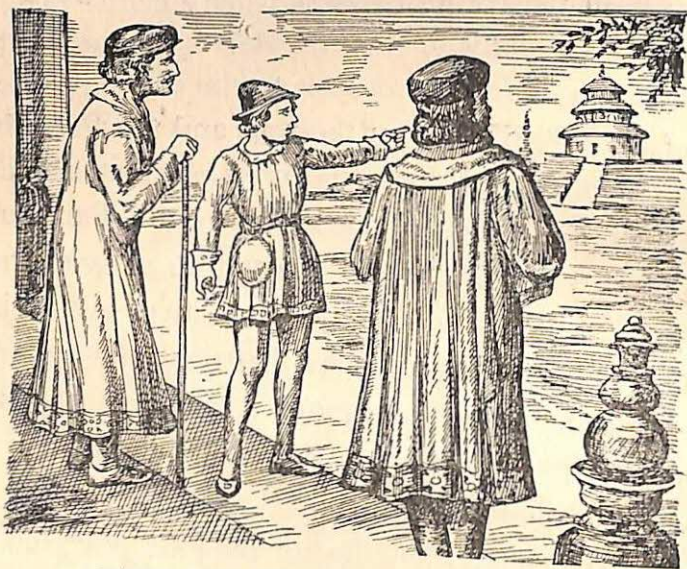
There were perils on the way and the Polos had to struggle through torrential rains, sand-storms and avalanches. Up to the giddy slopes of the Pamir and over awful gorges they had to toil on swaying rope bridges. So high did they climb that even birds ceased to fly, and it was here that they saw the great wild sheep "whose horns are a good six palms in length." Specimens of this rare species of sheep may be seen in museums to-day.

At last, after spending nearly four years on the way, the Polos entered the presence of the emperor before whom all Asia trembled. "And who," the emperor asked the elder Polo, "is this young gallant?" Proudly Nicolo Polo brought Marco forward: "He is my son, sire, and your servant."

From the beginning, the emperor took a fancy for the young man. He took him out on hunts, and



to his summer-house at Xanadu. For three years Marco was governor of the rich city of Yangchow; he was sent on missions to Burma, to the wilds of Western China, and to the borders of Tibet and to India. By that time he had mastered four oriental languages.



MARCO POLO SEES THE CAPITAL OF CHINA

Marco saw and described the great and wonderful civilization of the China of the Middle Ages. That China was ahead of Europe in many ways can be gathered from the things Marco mentions as admirable and new to him,—broad streets, paper money, police patrols at night, bridges so high that vessels

with tall masts could easily pass under them and beautiful roads with trees on both sides of them.

For seventeen years Marco served the emperor, while his father and uncle grew rich in trade. And then a great home-sickness came over them, and they longed to go back to their country. Again and again they begged for permission to depart. It was always refused. But their opportunity came at long last. There arrived to the Emperor a mission from his nephew, the ruler of far-off Persia, whose wife had just died. The King of Persia had chosen for his second wife a relative of the emperor, and the mission came to escort the bride-elect to Persia. And now a request was made to the emperor, namely that, the Polos, famous as travellers, might accompany the party to Persia. Reluctantly the emperor consented. A great fortune was bestowed on the Polos when they left China.

Three years later, on one wintry day in 1295, there arrived, at the door of the house of the Polos in Venice, three strange-looking men in ragged clothes. Their faces were unknown and the servants refused them entry. The three raised an outcry, and members of the Polo family came out of the house. But even the relatives shook their heads in doubt. To convince them, the strangers ripped open the linings of their



tattered clothes. Out tumbled a fortune in precious jewels—for it was thus that the travellers had carried their wealth through the perils that beset them. And now indeed were their relatives interested in them and became their loving friends again!

Had it not been for the fortunes of war, the marvellous tale of the adventures of Marco Polo would have died with him. Marco served as the commander of a galley in one of the frequent clashes of Venice with Genoa. He was captured and imprisoned, and as luck would have it, put in the same cell with a scribe.

In order to pass the time in the prison cell, Marco dictated the volume we now treasure as *The Travels of Marco Polo* to his fellow-prisoner, the scribe. It was difficult for the people of those days to believe many of the strange tales told in it. Before the great traveller died at the age of seventy, they asked him to take back his lies since he was to face his Maker very soon. His cool answer was, "I never told half of them!"

### NOTES

#### I. Grammatical :

'Riches' was formerly used as a singular, but is now always used as a plural.

#### II. General :

Orient—the part where the Sun rises; the east, or the countries of the east.

## EXERCISES

- I. A <sup>1915</sup> (a) Name some of the objects mentioned by Marco Polo which were considered strange and fantastic by his countrymen.
- A <sup>1915</sup> (b) Who was Kublai Khan? How did he come in contact with Marco Polo?
- A <sup>1915</sup> (c) Mention some of the things in respect of which China was ahead of Europe in the Middle Ages.
- A <sup>1915</sup> (d) Narrate the circumstances which led to the writing of the book, 'The Travels of Marco Polo.'
- (e) What reply was given by Marco Polo to his countrymen when they asked him to take back the lies he had told in his 'Travels'?
- (a) Change the form of the narration of the following passage:—  
"And who," the Emperor asked the elder Polo, "is this young gallant?" Proudly Nicolo Polo brought Marco forward: "He is my son, sire, and your servant."
- (b) Punctuate the following passage using capital letters, where necessary:—  
the monks turned back at the first hint of danger but marco the youngest member of the party was undaunted.



## PATIENT MAURICE

### *New Words :*

<b>counter</b>	<b>humour</b>	<b>buckle</b>	<b>tulip</b>	<b>jar</b>
<b>leisure</b>	<b>sheer</b>	<b>guineas</b>	<b>weather</b>	<b>pack</b>
<b>square</b>	<b>entangled</b>	<b>league</b>	<b>permitting</b>	<b>parcel</b>

### *New Idioms :*

<b>looked out</b>	<b>done up</b>	<b>sheer off</b>
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In the neighbourhood of a sea-port town in the west of England, there lived a gardener, who had a son, called Maurice, of whom he was very fond. One day his father sent Maurice to the neighbouring town to purchase some garden-seeds for him. When Maurice got to the seed-shop, it was full of people, who were all impatient to be served; first, a great tall man, and next, a great fat woman pushed before him, and he stood quietly beside the counter, waiting till somebody should be at leisure to attend to him. At length, when all the other people, who were in the shop, had got what they wanted, the shopman turned to Maurice. "And what do you want, my patient little fellow?" said he.

"I want all these seeds for my father," said Maurice, putting a list of seeds into the shopman's hand; "and I have brought money to pay for them all."

The seedsman looked out all the seeds that Maurice wanted. He was folding them up in a paper when, from a door at the back of the shop, there came in a square, rough-faced man, who exclaimed the moment he came in, "Are the seeds I ordered ready? The wind's fair—they ought to have been aboard yesterday. And my China jar?—Is it packed up and directed? Where is it?"

"It is up there on the shelf over your head, sir," answered the seedsman. "It is very safe, you see; but we have not had time to pack it yet; it shall be done to-day: and we will get the seeds for you, sir, immediately."

"Immediately! then stir about it: the seeds will not pack themselves up! Make haste, pray."

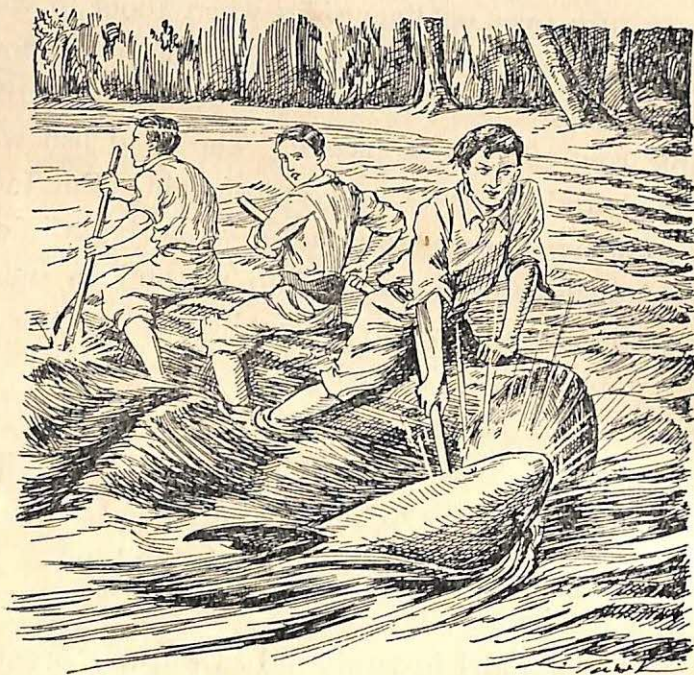
"Immediately, sir; as soon as I have done up the parcel for this little boy."

"What signifies the parcel for this little boy? He can wait and I cannot; wind and tide wait for no man. Here, my boy, take your parcel and sheer off," said the impatient man; and, as he spoke, he took up the parcel of seeds from the counter, as the shopman stooped to look for a sheet of thick brown paper and pack-thread to tie it up in.

The parcel was but loosely folded up, and, as the impatient man lifted it, the weight of the peas which



my mind, we sat thus silently; but I could not resist glancing backward. I saw Jack sitting rigid like a statue, with his paddle raised, his lips compressed, and his eye-brows bent over his eyes, which glared savagely from beneath them down into the water. I saw the shark, to my horror, quite close under the log, in the act of darting towards Jack's foot.



JACK FIGHTING WITH THE SHARK

I could scarce suppress a cry on beholding this. In another moment the shark rose. Jack drew his leg suddenly from the water, and threw it over the

log. The monster's snout rubbed against the log as it passed, and revealed its hideous jaws, into which Jack instantly plunged the paddle and thrust it down its throat.

So violent was this act that Jack rose to his feet in performing it; the log was thereby rolled completely over, and we were once more plunged into the water. We all rose, sputtering and gasping, in a moment.

"Now, then, strike out for the shore," cried Jack.—"Here, Peterkin, catch hold of my collar, and kick out with a will."

Peterkin did as he was desired, and Jack struck out with such force that he cut through the water like a boat; while I, being free from all encumbrance, succeeded in keeping up with him. As we had by this time drawn pretty near to the shore, a few minutes more sufficed to carry us into shallow water; and, finally, we landed in safety, though very much exhausted, and not a little frightened by our terrible adventure.

R. M. BALLANTYNE: *The Coral Island.*

#### NOTES

##### Grammatical :

In 'from under a rock' the preposition, 'from' governs the phrase, 'under a rock'. The sentence, 'throw the fish to it . . . for a few minutes', contains verbs in the



were inside it, burst the paper, and all the seeds fell out upon the floor, while Maurice in vain held out his hands to catch them. The peas rolled to all parts of the shop. The impatient man swore at them, but Maurice, without being out of humour, set about collecting them as fast as possible. While he was busied in this manner, the man got what seeds he wanted, and, as he was talking about them, a sailor came into the shop and said, "Captain, the wind has changed within these five minutes, and it looks as if we should have ugly weather."

"Well, I am glad of it," replied the rough-faced man, who was the captain of a ship. "I'm glad to have a day longer to stay ashore, and I have business enough on my hands."

The captain pushed forward towards the shop door. Maurice, who was kneeling on the floor picking up his seeds, saw that the captain's foot was entangled in some pack-thread which hung down from the shelf on which the China jar stood. Maurice saw that, if the captain took one more step forward he must pull the string, so that it would throw down the jar round the bottom of which the pack-thread was entangled. He immediately caught hold of the captain's leg and stopped him. "Stay! stand still, sir," said he, "or you will break your China jar."

The man stood still, looked and saw how the pack-thread had caught in his shoe-buckle, and how it was near dragging down his beautiful China jar. "I am really very much obliged to you, my little fellow," said he: "you have saved my jar, which I would not have broken for ten guineas; it is for my wife. I have brought it safe from abroad many a league and it would have been a pity if I had broken it just when it was safe landed. I am really much obliged to you, my little fellow; this was returning good for evil. I am sorry I threw down your seeds, as you are such a good-natured, forgiving boy."

"Be so kind," continued he, turning to the shopman, "as to reach down that China jar for me."

The shopman lifted down the jar very carefully, and the captain took off the cover and pulled out some tulip roots. "You seem, by the quality of the seeds you have got, to belong to a gardener. Are you fond of gardening?" said he to Maurice.

"Yes, sir," replied Maurice, "very fond of it; for my father is a gardener, and he lets me help him at his work, and he has given me a little garden of my own."

"Then here is a couple of tulip roots for you, and, if you take care of them, I'll promise you that you will have the finest tulips in England in your



little garden. These tulips were given to me by a Dutch merchant, who told me that they were some of the rarest and finest in Holland. (They will prosper with you, I'm sure, wind and weather permitting.)

Maurice thanked the gentleman and returned home glad.

MISS MARIA EDGEWORTH

## NOTES

### I. Grammatical :

'to purchase' is a gerundial infinitive, meaning 'for the purpose of purchasing'; similarly 'to tie it up.'

In 'there came in a . . . man' the adverb, 'there' is called 'Introductory there'; it serves to introduce the real subject which follows the finite verb.

Note the following sentences carefully:—'if the captain took one more step forward, he must pull the string', 'it would have been a pity if I had broken it', and 'you have saved my jar, which I would not have broken for ten guineas.' The verbs, 'took', 'had broken' and 'would have broken' are said to be in the subjunctive mood expressing desire, supposition, uncertainty, hope, doubt, etc. In 'Stay, stand still!' the verbs 'stay' and 'stand' are in the imperative mood expressing request. In 'he lets me help him at his work', 'help' is in the infinitive mood; the sign of the infinitive, 'to' before it being understood after the finite verb, 'let.'

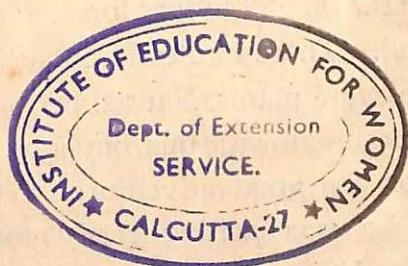
### II. General :

'China' is a modern descriptive name given to pottery which is made semi-transparent by adding bone to the other materials used in its manufacture. It is to be distinguished from 'porcelain' which is made from natural clay, no bone being used.

'League' is a measure of road distance, usually three miles.

## EXERCISES

- I. (a) Give instances of the politeness and patience of Maurice. Do you find them in the character of the captain?  
(b) How did Maurice save the China jar of the captain?  
(c) How did the captain show his gratefulness to Maurice?  
(d) Why was the captain glad to hear that the weather might turn ugly?
- II. (a) Analyse the following sentences, showing the subjects, the predicates, the objects, and the adjuncts to the subjects, if any:—  
(i) I have brought money to pay for them all.  
(ii) Wind and tide wait for no man.  
(iii) But Maurice, without being out of humour, set about collecting them as fast as possible.
- (b) Name the moods of the verbs in the following sentences:  
(i) It looks as if we should have ugly weather.  
(ii) Be so kind as to reach the China jar for me.  
(iii) He lets me help at his work.  
(iv) Make haste, pray.





# NANSEN

*New Words :*

inaccessible	repatriation	intercession	announced
destination	depressed	endurable	attitude
quest	zoologist	interior	harbours
absurd	disaster	reluctantly	refugees
staggered	whaler	ice-berg	emerge
impact	scaled		dreary
data	philanthropist		driftwood (drift)
droop	oceanographer	automatically	floe

*New Idioms :*

on board      put into effect      won the laurels      on end

Fridtjof Nansen was born in the small country of Norway. But he earned world-wide fame as a great Arctic explorer and philanthropist.

Nansen grew up on a farm on the border of a beautiful forest in Oslo where his father was a prosperous lawyer. The father allowed his son to rove alone for weeks on end in that forest and on the mountains beyond. There endlessly collecting and classifying animals and plants, Nansen became a passionate seeker of the unknown; this boyhood passion made him later on the great adventurer that he was.

While he was getting ready for his doctor's degree at the University, Nansen was called upon to prepare a chart of the interior of Greenland and gather information for an accurate forecast of the

weather in the North Atlantic. Thus began Nansen's first great adventure.

There were a few rude settlements in the western harbours of Greenland, and from them several expeditions had tried in the past to reach the ice-bound and almost inaccessible interior. But all of them had to turn back before they were even half-way across.

Nansen announced a bold plan, namely that, he would cross Greenland from east to west. His proposal was looked upon as absurd, for there was no settlement on the eastern side and so there would practically be no base to fall back upon in the event of a disaster. But Nansen was confident. "If we know that behind us there is nothing," he said, "we must go forward."

In the summer of 1888, a whaler carried Nansen and his five companions to a point near the east coast of Greenland. For weeks the ice there held the ship fifty miles away from the shore. On July 17, the ice split and the ship entered within nine miles of the coast, and the six men were lowered into the sea in two boats. It took them twelve days to reach the shore! In six weeks they reached their destination, suffering terribly on the way from cold and snow-blindness.



Nansen came back to Norway and made known the scientific data he had gathered on the expedition. He found himself at once famous at the age of twenty-eight.

But he did not rest content with his success and was soon planning another adventure.

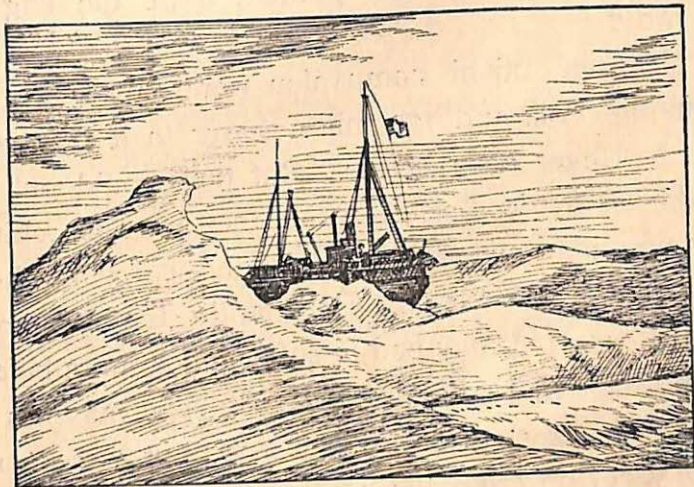
The North Pole and the ocean for hundreds of miles around it are covered by a vast ice-field. All Arctic explorers before Nansen had sailed their ships up to this ice-field and had tried to reach the Pole on foot from here, but had all failed. While on the whaler near Greenland Nansen had found a piece of driftwood on a floe. There were no trees in Greenland and, so Nansen thought, there must be a steady current moving the whole iceberg from Siberia to Greenland, where it broke up in warmer waters. He argued within himself, 'If driftwood could travel across the Polar Sea, why could not a ship?'

He planned to get his ship into the icefield and allow it to be frozen there. In three to five years it would emerge near Greenland, and with luck it would even cross the Pole or come near it.

He made very careful preparations for the expedition. He made his ship in a new design, so that the impact of ice would not crush it but force it auto-

matically above the surface. The ship was named *Fram*, which, in Norwegian, means 'Forward.'

In September, 1893, the *Fram*, carrying Nansen and twelve scientists and sailors, met floes of ice north-west of the Bering Strait. When the masses of ice caught the ship and squeezed it, the *Fram* staggered, but gradually forced itself upwards and,



THE FRAM

as Nansen had hoped, came at last to rest on the surface of the ice.

At the end of the first year the *Fram* had drifted for only 189 miles, and early in the second year it became evident that the ship could not reach the Pole. Then Nansen made himself ready to put into effect



the second part of his plan. He resolved to leave the ship with one companion and three dog-sledges in an attempt to push as far north as possible.

So, on March 14, 1895, Nansen and Johansen left the *Fram* at a place 415 miles south of the Pole and started on one of the hardest journeys that man has ever undertaken. On April 8, Nansen scaled the top of an ice-ridge and planted there the flag of Norway.

Nansen and his companion were only 226 miles from the Pole and 170 miles nearer to it than any one had ever been before. But they could not go farther as the ice-floe, on which they were marching, was moving towards the west and carrying them away from their goal. Reluctantly the two men turned back but they had to suffer much more before seeing their native land again. By slow marches to the south they regained firm land, but were completely cut off from the civilised world. After nine long months of dreary waiting they were rescued by the members of a British expedition to the North.

The party reached Norway in August, 1896. One week afterwards the *Fram* came into port with everyone on board safe and sound.

Nansen was hailed as the greatest Arctic explorer in history. There were cheering crowds and celebra-

tions everywhere he went. But he did not like them and public life depressed him.

Nansen returned to his work as the professor of oceanography at the University of Oslo. But when the call for help came to him, a few years later, from a grateful world, he could not withstand it. Then began a series of new adventures, very different from those of his early years and he won the laurels in all of them. It is said of him that "He saved more lives and made life endurable for more people than any other man in history."

After the end of the First World War the greatest problem that Europe had to face was the repatriation of the prisoners of war in Russia. The attitude of Russia was not helpful at first, but at the intercession of Nansen 427,000 men were brought out of Russia and sent back to their homes.

Then a terrible famine swept over Russia in 1922. Thirty million peasants were eating barks, leaves, and even salted human flesh. Nansen was now an old man of sixty, but he did not hesitate. He travelled all over Europe and America to raise money for the famine-stricken. Thousands of men were fed. Nansen directed the food kitchens himself and assisted in cooking and serving the food.

He gave away the greater part of the money he



had received as Nobel Peace Prize in 1922 for the re-settlement of the Greek refugees.

But these heroic efforts wore him out. On a sunny afternoon, in May, 1930, he was sitting in front of his house at Oslo and looking out across the pine forest to the mountains when his head suddenly drooped and he was dead.

## NOTES

### I. Grammatical :

'Data' is the plural of 'datum.'

In 'He found himself at once famous', 'famous' is the objective complement of the transitive verb, 'found.'

'Series' is plural in form but generally singular in use.

### II. General :

Driftwood—wood driven by water.

'Floe'—a field of floating ice.

## EXERCISES

- I. (a) Describe briefly Nansen's expedition to Greenland. Why was this expedition undertaken?
- (b) What was Nansen's greatest adventure? Describe the plan adopted by him to reach the North Pole.
- (c) Give instances of Nansen's philanthropic zeal.
- II. (a) Change the voice of the verbs in the following sentences:
  - (i) Nansen was called upon to prepare a chart of the interior of Greenland.
  - (ii) He made very careful preparations for the expedition.
  - (iii) Nansen was hailed as the greatest Arctic explorer in history.

- (b) Analyse the following sentences, saying in each case whether the sentence is simple, compound or complex:—
- (i) There were a few rude settlements in the western harbours of Greenland.
  - (ii) He planned to get his ship into the ice-field and allow it to be frozen there.
  - (iii) Nansen grew up on a farm in Oslo where his father was a prosperous lawyer.
- (c) Change the form of the narration of the following sentence:—
- “ If we know that behind us there is nothing,” he said, “ we must go forward.”



## ARSENAL vs. VILLA

### *New Words :*

athletic	rumble	excitement	flicked
volley	parade	fascinated	penetrable
ecstasy	warning	lamentation	subside
exchanges	security	desperate	raiding
ballooning	trapping	bounce	foul
terrific	plunged	crisis	neutral
anticipating	inspired	deflected	international
thanksgiving		pandemonium	sensationally
apprehensive		momentarily	

### *New Idioms :*

kick-off	on the run	settled down
hard put to it	hold on	went by

It was Saturday, and Robinson proposed to visit Birmingham to see the replay of the match between Aston Villa and Arsenal in the first round proper of the English Cup. Jane, from a sense of duty said that she would stay at home with Hazel, but was relieved when her sister replied that she would not hear of it. She had no particular interest in football, but it was a party and she did not want to be out of it.

They reached Birmingham in good time. There was no difficulty in finding the way, an immense stream of foot-traffic filling the pavements and most

of the road. Adam had once been to an international Rugby match, but Jane had never seen such a crowd of people. Everyone was walking at a great pace.

Although they were early, there was already a great crowd, but presently they found themselves comfortably seated in a stand that gave them a perfect view of the playing pitch.

Slowly the crowd became quiet as the playing hour approached. There were more than fifty thousand people on the ground.

A few moments later there was a roar of London cheering as the Arsenal team ran at parade on the ground. No sooner had they arrived than Birmingham answered London with an even mightier roar as the Villa men came out.

Already Jane was fascinated by the athletic mastery of movement in the players warming up to the contest in front of them.

The referee was now in the middle of the ground, placing a bright new ball on the centre spot. The rival captains joined him, and having shaken hands with him and with each other, one of them spun a coin. Looking at the result as it lay on the ground, he pointed to the other end of the field, the teams changed over and lined up, the whistle blew and to



an accompanying rumble of excitement the game had begun.

It opened sensationally. The Arsenal centre-forward gave the ball from the kick-off to his inside-left, who without hesitating passed it far across to the right wing. The outside man took it on the run, flicked it to his inside partner, and in a moment it was at the feet of the outside-left. He beat the opposing full back, took the ball to the corner flag, made a superb centre which the leader took on the half-volley, and in thirty seconds Arsenal had scored without a Villa man having touched the ball.

In the crowd pandemonium broke loose. Ten thousand Londoners who had travelled to see the game flung their arms to heaven and screamed in an ecstasy of thanksgiving. Forty thousand Midlanders groaned miserably under the shock that had fallen on them without any fair warning. In the meantime the referee was waiting with the ball on the centre spot, and, before lamentation and delight had begun to subside, the whistle had gone and the game restarted.

The home team gathered itself together, and as they settled down to even exchanges with their opponents the Midland crowd took heart and the Londoners began to grow apprehensive. A goal lead was a

good start, but it was by no means an abiding security. Gradually the Villa took their share and a little more of the attack, and when at half-time no other goal had been scored it was still anybody's game.

The second half began, and it was soon clear that Arsenal were going to be hard put to it to hold on to their lead. Their forwards made raiding movements at the smallest opportunity, but the Villa pressure more and more confined them to the neighbourhood of their own goal. Time after time their backs relieved desperate situations, and time after time the Villa returned to the attack. The excitement of the Midland thousands became feverish as the forty-five minutes wore down to twenty, and the twenty to ten. Five minutes—three—Adam began to feel rather sick, which was absurd. Jane, too, began to feel that she had about as much as she could stand. Two minutes—Adam certainly was going to be sick—a minute and a—what was happening? An Arsenal back, beset by three home forwards, cleared weakly, ballooning the ball twenty yards up the field where it was received by the Villa centre-half, momentarily unmarked. Trapping it with his foot before the bounce, he glanced at the goal nearly thirty yards away and let out a terrific right-footer. The aim was



perfect. The Arsenal goal-keeper sprang to meet the danger, and as he did so, one of his backs plunged at the ball, misjudged it, and in doing so unsighted the keeper, who saw it pass like lightning over his arm into the net.

A crash of human thunder smote the air. Arms, umbrellas, hats, caps and programmes flew up all round the ground, while the shouting rose wave upon wave to a topmost pitch that seemed to go on for ever! A moment later the whistle blew for the restart and then immediately for time. The score being level, an extra half-hour had to be played, and the first period of this started at once. It ended with no change, and the sides crossed over. Tension grew as again the final minutes went by, and again it reached a crisis as the end approached. And now, with two minutes to go, the referee, to the horror of forty thousand people, awarded a penalty kick against the Villa for a foul in the penalty area. Heedless of all protests, he pointed to the spot twelve yards from the Villa goal, from which an Arsenal player was to be allowed a shot with nothing between him and the net but the Villa goal-keeper. As the preparations for this were made, Adam could hardly believe his eyes. Desperately as he wanted Arsenal to win, this hardly seemed cricket.

The ball was placed on the spot, all the Villa men but the keeper being sent out of the penalty area. The Arsenal team stood behind the ball, up the field. One of them advanced, facing the miserable keeper, who stood on the line at the centre of his charge. Taking a short run, the Arsenal player sent the ball rising with an amazing velocity towards the top corner of the net. The goal keeper, anticipating its direction by some inspired instinct, made an upward dive with outstretched hands towards its flight, miraculously reached it with the tips of his fingers, and deflected its course. As it soared above the cross-bar the crowd let itself go for the third time in the afternoon. Arsenal took their corner kick, a Villa defender headed it out of danger, the whistle went and the game was over.

"What happens now?" asked Jane.

"They replay on a neutral ground," answered Robinson.

—JOHN DRINKWATER

## NOTES

### I. Grammatical :

In 'Robinson proposed to visit Birmingham to see the replay,' 'to visit' is a noun-infinitive, being the object of the verb, 'proposed'; and 'to see' is a gerundial infinitive, meaning 'for the purpose of seeing.'



In 'they found themselves comfortably seated in a stand that gave them a perfect view' 'themselves' is a reflexive pronoun, being the object of the verb, 'found'; 'them' is the indirect object and 'view' the direct object of the verb, 'gave.'

## II. General :

Pandemonium—any disorderly assembly, loud voice or utter confusion.

'This hardly seemed cricket' means 'this did not seem fair play', 'cricket' being idiomatically used for 'fair play.'

## EXERCISES

- I. (a) How did the match start? Which side scored first?
- (b) What was the occasion on which the crowd let itself go for the third time in the afternoon? What were the two previous occasions?
- II. (a) Turn the following passage into indirect narration:—  
 "What happens now?" asked Jane.  
 "They replay on a neutral ground," answered Robinson
- (b) Turn into active voice:—  
 The ball was placed on the spot, all the Villa men but the keeper being sent out of the penalty area.

## ENCOUNTER WITH A SHARK

### *New Words :*

<b>vigorous</b>	<b>embark</b>	<b>paddle</b>	<b>astride</b>	<b>poles</b>
<b>dangling</b>	<b>haul</b>	<b>encumbrance</b>	<b>oyster</b>	<b>bait</b>
<b>balance</b>	<b>floundering</b>	<b>rigid</b>	<b>line</b>	<b>bothered</b>
<b>launch</b>	<b>snout</b>	<b>engulfed</b>	<b>compressed</b>	
<b>ripple</b>	<b>confidence</b>	<b>revealed</b>	<b>hideous</b>	<b>fin</b>
<b>sputtering</b>	<b>sufficed</b>	<b>shallow</b>	<b>exhausted</b>	

### *New Idioms :*

<b>taking to heart</b>	<b>make for</b>	<b>look out</b>	<b>keeping up</b>
<b>every now and then</b>	<b>catch hold of</b>	<b>intent upon</b>	

Having been successful in launching the log, we next shaped the branches into rude oars or paddles, and then attempted to embark. This was easy enough to do; but after seating ourselves astride the log, it was with the utmost difficulty that we kept it from rolling round and plunging us into the water. Not that we minded that much; but we preferred, if possible, to fish in dry clothes. To be sure, our trousers were necessarily wet, as our legs were dangling in the water on each side of the log; but as they could be easily dried, we did not care. After half an hour's practice we became expert enough to keep our balance pretty steadily. Then Peterkin laid down



his paddle, and having baited his line with a whole oyster, dropped it into deep water.

"Now then, Jack," said he, "be cautious; steer clear of that seaweed. There, that's it; gently now, gently. I see a fellow at least a foot long down there coming to—ah! that's it! Oh, bother! he's off."

"Did he bite?" said Jack, urging the log onwards a little with his paddle.

"Bite? ay! He took it into his mouth, but the moment I began to haul he opened his jaws and let it out again."

"Let him swallow it next time," said Jack, laughing at the sad expression on Peterkin's face.

"There he is again," cried Peterkin, his eyes flashing with excitement. "Look out! Now then! No! Yes! No! Why, the brute won't swallow it!"

"Try to haul him up by the mouth, then," cried Jack. "Do it gently."

A heavy sigh showed that poor Peterkin had tried and failed again.

"Never mind, lad," said Jack, in a voice of sympathy; "we'll move on, and offer it to some other fish." So saying, Jack plied his paddle; but scarcely had he moved from the spot when a fish with a large head and a little body darted from under a rock and swallowed the bait at once.

"Got him this time—that's a fact!" cried Peterkin, hauling in the line. "He's swallowed the bait right down to his tail, I declare."

As the fish came struggling to the surface, we leaned forward to see it, and overbalanced the log. Peterkin threw his arms round the fish's neck, and in another instant we were all floundering in the water!

A shout of laughter burst from us as we rose to the surface like three drowned rats, and seized hold of the log.

We soon recovered our position, and sat more cautiously, while Peterkin secured the fish, which had well-nigh escaped in the midst of our struggles. It was little worth having, however, but, as Peterkin remarked, it was better than what he had been catching for the last two or three days; so we laid it on the log before us, and having re-baited the line dropped it in again for another.

Now, while we were thus intent upon our sport, our attention was suddenly attracted by a ripple on the sea, just a few yards away from us. Peterkin shouted to us to paddle in that direction, as he thought it was a big fish, and we might have a chance of catching it. But Jack, instead of complying, said,



in a deep earnest tone of voice, which I had never before heard him use, "Haul up your line, Peterkin; seize your paddle; quick,—it is a shark!"

The horror with which we heard this may well be imagined, for it must be remembered that our logs were hanging down in the water, and we could not venture to pull them up without upsetting the log. Peterkin instantly hauled up the line, and grasping his paddle, exerted himself to the utmost, while we did our best to make for the shore. But we were a good way off, and the log being very heavy, moved but slowly through the water. We now saw the shark quite distinctly swimming round and round us, its sharp fin every now and then showing above the water. From its active and unsteady motions, Jack knew that it was making up its mind to attack us, and so he urged us vehemently to paddle for our lives, whilst he himself set us the example. Suddenly he shouted, "Look out! there it comes!" and in a second we saw the monstrous fish dive close under us, and turn half over on its side. But we all made a great noise with our paddles, which no doubt frightened it away for that time, but we saw it immediately after, circling round us as before.

"Throw the fish to it," cried Jack, in a quick,

suppressed voice; "we'll make the shore in time yet if we can keep it off for a few minutes."

Peterkin stopped one instant to obey the command, and then plied his paddle again with all his might. No sooner had the fish fallen on the water than we observed the shark sink. In another second we saw its white breast rising; for sharks always turn over on their sides when about to seize their prey. In another moment its snout rose above the water and its wide jaws, armed with a terrific double row of teeth, appeared. The dead fish was engulfed, and the shark sank out of sight. But Jack was mistaken in supposing that it would be satisfied. In a few minutes it returned to us, and its quick motions led us to fear that it would attack us at once.

"Stop paddling," cried Jack suddenly. "I see it coming up behind us. Now, obey my orders quickly. Our lives may depend on it. Ralph, Peterkin, do your best to balance the log. Don't look out for the shark. Don't glance behind you. Do nothing but balance the log."

Peterkin and I instantly did as we were ordered, being only too glad to do anything that offered us a chance of escape, for we had great confidence in Jack's courage and wisdom.

For a few seconds that seemed long minutes to



imperative, indicative, subjunctive and infinitive moods; 'throw' is in the imperative mood; 'will make' is in the indicative mood; 'can' is in the subjunctive mood and 'keep' is a noun-infinitive, 'to' before it being understood; it is the object of the defective verb, 'can.'

### EXERCISES

- I. (a) How did Peterkin and his friends get the first fish?  
(b) How did the party keep off the shark from them?  
(c) How did they at last escape?
- II. (a) Analyse the following sentences, splitting them up into clauses and showing the relation of the clauses to one another:—
  - (i) A heavy sigh showed that poor Peterkin had tried and failed again.
  - (ii) Peterkin and I instantly did as we were ordered, being only too glad to do anything that afforded us a chance or a hope of escape.
- (b) Make sentences to illustrate the use of 'have' and 'be' as principal and auxiliary verbs.

## GULLIVER CONFOUNDS BLEFUSCU

### *New Words :*

concluded	ointment	avoided	strictly
project	fleet	scouts	anchor
transports	cable	trebled	twisted
leathern	jerkin	waded	tackling
ambition	expedient	smart	disturbance
excessive	enterprise	conceive	confounded
design	adrift	knot	shallow
panic	proW	hostile	cargo
argument	protested	instrument	perspective
communicated	plumbed	measure	

### *New Idioms :*

high water	lay at anchor	eased off
within hearing	putting off	

The Empire of Blefuscu is an island situated to the north-north-east side of Lilliput, from which it is parted only by a sea eight hundred yards wide. I had not yet seen it, and upon the notice of an intended invasion, I avoided appearing on that side of the coast, for fear of being seen by some of the enemies, who had no news of me.



JONATHAN SWIFT

I communicated to his Majesty a project I had formed of seizing the enemy's whole fleet which



lay at anchor in the harbour, ready to sail with the first fair wind. I consulted the most experienced seamen upon the depth of the sea, which they had often plumbed. They told me that in the middle at high water it was seventy *glumgluffs* deep, which is about six feet of European measure; and the rest of it fifty *glumgluffs* at most. I walked towards the north-east coast over against Blefuscu; and lying down behind a hillock, took out my small pocket perspective-glass, and viewed the enemy's fleet at anchor, consisting of about fifty men-of-war, and a great number of transports.

I then came back to my house, and gave orders for a great quantity of the strongest cable and bars of iron. The cable was as thick as pack-thread, and the bars of the length and size of knitting needles. I trebled the cable to make it stronger, and for the same reason I twisted three of the iron bars together, binding the extremities into a hook. Having thus fixed fifty hooks to as many cables, I went back to the north-east coast, and putting off my coat, shoes, and stockings, walked into the sea in my leathern jerkin, about half an hour before high water. I waded with what haste I could, and swam in the middle about thirty yards till I felt ground. I arrived at the fleet in less than half an hour.

The enemy was so frightened when they saw me, that they leaped out of their ships, and swam to shore, where there could not be fewer than thirty thousand souls. I then took my tackling, and fastening a hook to the hole at the prow of each, I tied all the cords together at the end. While I was thus employed, the enemy discharged several thousand arrows, many of which struck my hands and face and, besides the excessive smart, gave me much disturbance in my work. My greatest fear was for my eyes, which I should have most certainly lost, if I had not suddenly thought of an expedient. I kept, amongst other little necessities, a pair of spectacles in a private pocket. These I took out and fastened as strongly as I could upon my nose, and thus armed, went on boldly with my work in spite of the enemy's arrows, many of which struck against the glasses of my spectacles, but without much effect.

I had now fastened all the hooks, and taking the knot in my hand, began to pull; but not a ship would stir, for they were all too fast held by their anchors, so that the boldest part of my enterprise remained. I, therefore, let go the cord, and leaving the hooks fixed to the ships, I resolutely cut with my knife the cables that fastened the anchors, receiving above two hundred shots in my face and hands; then I took up



the knotted end of the cables to which my hooks were tied, and with great ease drew fifty of the enemy's largest men-of-war after me.

The Blefuscudians, who had not the least idea of what I intended, were at first confounded with asto-



GULLIVER DRAWS THE FLEET OF BLEFUSCU AFTER HIM

nishment. They had seen me cut the cables, and thought my design was only to let the ships run adrift, or strike against one another; but when they perceived the whole fleet moving in order, and saw me pulling at the end, they set up a scream of grief and

despair which it is almost impossible to describe. When I was out of danger, I stopped for a while to pick out the arrows that had struck in my hands and face, and rubbed on some of the ointment that was given on my first arrival. I then took off my spectacles and, waiting about an hour, till the tide was a little fallen, I waded through the middle with my cargo and arrived at the royal port of Lilliput.

The Emperor and his whole court stood on the shore awaiting the result of this great adventure. They saw the ships move forward in a large half-moon but could not see me, as I was up to my breast in water. When I advanced to the middle of the sea, they were in yet greater panic, because I was under water to my neck. The Emperor concluded that I was drowned, and that the enemy's fleet was approaching in a hostile manner. But he was soon eased of his fears, for the sea growing swallower every step I took, I came in a short time within hearing, and holding up the end of the cable by which the fleet was fastened, I cried in a loud voice, 'Long live the most puissant Emperor of Lilliput!' This great prince received me at my landing with all possible praise, and created me, upon the spot, a *Nardac* which is the highest title of honour among them.



His Majesty desired that I should take some other opportunity of bringing all the rest of his enemy's ships into his ports. And so immeasurable is the ambition of princes that he seemed to think of nothing less than reducing the whole empire of Blefuscu into a province, and governing it by a viceroy. But I endeavoured to divert him from this design by many arguments; and I plainly protested that I would never be an instrument of bringing a free and brave people into slavery.

JONATHAN SWIFT (*Adapted*)

## NOTES

### I. Grammatical :

'Necessaries' is a noun meaning 'indispensable articles'; it is generally used in the plural.

'Spectacles' is always used in plural, when it means 'eye-glasses'; similarly, 'trousers.'

'Men-of-war', meaning 'warships', is a compound word. In 'they had seen me cut the cables' and 'my design was only to let the ships run adrift' the verbs, 'cut' and 'run' are in the infinitive mood, 'to' being understood before them.

'To pick out' is a gerundial infinitive, meaning 'for the purpose of picking out.'

### II. General :

Puissant—an old-fashioned word meaning 'having great power.' (Pronounced 'pwisnt'.)

## EXERCISES

- I. (a) How did Gulliver seize the fleet of Blefuscu?  
(b) Why were the Emperor and the people of Lilliput in a panic when they saw the fleet of Blefuscu approaching the shores of Lilliput?  
(c) Why did not Gulliver agree to help the Emperor of Lilliput in his project to make Blefuscu a province of Lilliput?
- II. (a) Split up the following sentence into its clauses showing their relation to one another:  
I communicated to his Majesty a project I had formed of seizing the enemy's whole fleet which lay at anchor in the harbour.  
(b) Find out the moods of the verbs *in italics* in the following sentences:  
(i) My greatest fear *was* for my eyes, which I should *have* most certainly *lost*, if I *had* not suddenly *thought* of an expedient.  
(ii) Long *live* the most puissant Emperor of Lilliput!  
(c) Find out the direct and indirect objects of the verbs in the following sentences:—  
(i) They told me that in the middle at high water it was seventy *glumgluffs* deep.  
(ii) Many of which gave me much disturbance in my work.



# A FANTASTIC ADVENTURE

## ( OF BARON MUNCHAUSEN )

*New Words :*

meditating	transitory	chasm	ascertain
sound (v)	ascent	hovered	dismount
elevation	distinctly	prospect	waning
afforded	sufficient	cabbages	tremendous
nervous	delicious	restored	fluttering
bladder	garters	stagger	inflated
provision	precipice	hostile	circulation
draught	grasping	avidity	frigid
cord	contemplating	inexpressible	endeavoured
roast	stock	pint	slices

*New Idioms :*

notwithstanding	took wing	at a loss
make impression on		

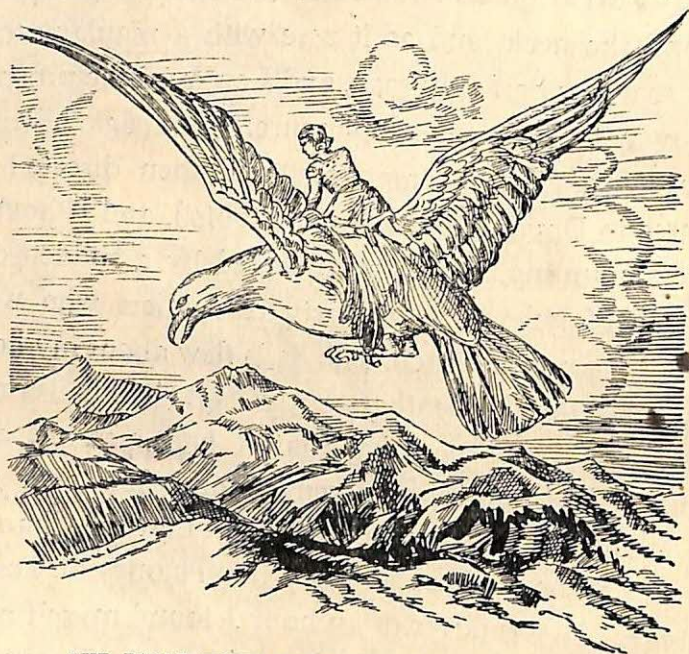
I walked round the ruins of the ancient temple several times, meditating on the fleeting and transitory nature of all earthly objects. I resolved, if possible, to gain its summit, which I at length reached by means of the ivy, though not without difficulty and danger; the top I found covered with this ever-green, except a large chasm in the middle. Curiosity prompted me to sound the opening in the middle, in order to ascertain its depth. I resolved to drop a stone down and listen to the echo; having found one

that suited my purpose, I placed myself over the hole, with one foot on each side, and stooping down to listen, I dropped the stone, which I had no sooner done than I heard a rustling noise down below; suddenly a huge eagle put up its head right opposite my face, and rising up with a great force, it carried me away seated on its shoulders. I instantly grasped it round the neck, and as it rose with a regular ascent my seat was perfectly easy, and I enjoyed the prospect below with inexpressible pleasure. The eagle hovered over Margate for some time, and then directed its course to Dover Cliff, where it alighted, and I thought of dismounting, but was prevented by a sudden discharge of guns from a party of soldiers who were exercising on the beach. The balls flew about my head and rattled on the feathers of the eagle like hailstones. Yet I could not perceive that it had received any injury. It instantly re-ascended and flew over the sea towards Calais, but so very high that the Channel seemed to be no broader than the Thames at Tower Bridge. In a quarter of an hour I found myself over a thick wood in France, where the eagle descended very rapidly, but I saw no possibility of freeing myself without the danger of being killed by the fall; so I determined to sit fast, thinking that the eagle would carry me to the Alps or some other high mountain,



where I could dismount without any danger. After resting for a few minutes it took wing and flew several times round the wood and screamed loud enough to be heard across the English Channel.

It then proceeded till noon, when I saw the rock of Gibraltar very distinctly. The day being clear,



THE EAGLE FLIES WITH THE BARON ON ITS BACK

notwithstanding my degree of elevation, the earth's surface appeared just like a map where land, sea, lakes, rivers, mountains, and the like could clearly be

seen; and having some knowledge of geography, I was at no loss to determine what part of the globe I was in.

Whilst I was contemplating the wonderful prospect and looking before me with great delight, I observed that the eagle was preparing to alight on the peak of Teneriffe; it descended on the top of a rock, but seeing no possible means of escape if I dismounted, I determined to remain where I was. The eagle sat down seemingly tired, when the heat of the sun soon caused both the eagle and myself to fall asleep. In the cool of the evening, when the sun had set, I was roused from sleep by the eagle moving under me; and having stretched myself along its back, I sat up, and reassumed my travelling position, as it directed its course to South America. The moon shining bright during the whole night, I had a fine view of all the islands in those seas.

At break of day we reached that part of the great continent of America called Terra Firma, and descended on the top of a very high mountain. At this time the waning moon afforded just sufficient light for me to discover a kind of shrubbery all around, bearing fruit something like cabbages, which the eagle began to feed on very eagerly. I endeavoured to discover my situation, but the tremendous howling of wild



beasts, some of which appeared to be very near, made me nervous. When daylight began to appear, I thought of examining the fruit which I had seen the eagle eat, and as some were hanging within easy reach, I took out my knife and cut a slice, but how great was my surprise to see that it had all the appearance of roast meat! I tasted it, and found it delicious. I then cut several large slices and put them in my pocket, where I found a crust of bread which I had brought from Margate; I took it out, and cutting a few slices more, made a hearty meal of cold meat, fruit and bread. I then cut down two of the largest fruit that grew near me, and tying them together with one of my garters, hung them over the eagle's neck for another occasion, filling my pockets at the same time. While I was settling these affairs I observed another large fruit like an inflated bladder, and striking my knife into one of them I found a fine pure wine rushing out, which the eagle eagerly drank up from the ground. I cut down the bladder as fast as I could, and saved about half a pint in the bottom of it, which I tasted and found as good as the best mountain wine. I drank it all and found myself greatly refreshed. By this time the eagle began to stagger against the shrubs. I endeavoured to keep my seat, but was soon thrown

to some distance among the bushes. In attempting to rise I put my hand upon a large hedgehog which happened to lie on its back among the grass; it instantly closed round my hand, so that I found it impossible to shake it off. I struck it several times against the ground without effect; but while I was thus employed I heard a rustling sound among the shrubbery, and looking up, I saw a huge animal within three yards of me; I could make no defence but held out both my hands, when it rushed upon me and seized that on which the hedgehog was fixed. My hand being soon relieved, I ran to some distance, when I saw the creature suddenly drop down with the hedgehog in its throat. When the danger was past I went to view the eagle, and found it lying on the grass fast asleep. Seeing everything quiet, I began to search for some more fruit which I soon found. Having cut down two large bladders, I tied them together, and hung them over the neck of the eagle, and two I tied with a cord round my own waist. Having secured a good stock of provisions, and perceiving that the eagle began to recover, I again took my seat. In half an hour it rose from the place, without taking the least notice of its load and directing its course northward it crossed the Gulf of Mexico, entered North America and then flew directly



for the Polar regions, which gave me a fine opportunity of viewing this vast continent.

Before we entered this frigid zone the cold had begun to affect me; but piercing one of my bladders, I took a draught, and found that the cold could make no impression on me afterwards. Passing over Hudson's Bay, I saw several of the Company's ships lying at anchor, and many tribes of Indians marching with their furs to market.

Although I could sit up and look around me, yet in general I lay along the eagle's neck, grasping it in my arms with my hands sunk in its feathers, in order to keep them warm. I observed that the eagle flew with greater rapidity in these cold climates in order, I suppose, to keep its blood in circulation.

Suddenly I was alarmed by the eagle striking its head against a hard transparent substance, and in a moment we dropped down on a mountain of ice which was about three miles above the sea-level.

No sooner were we planted on this mountain of ice than a terrible bear began to roar behind me with a voice like thunder. I turned round, and seeing the creature just ready to eat me up, I squeezed the bladder I had in my hands so hard that it burst, and the wine flying in the eyes of the animal totally robbed it of its sight. It instantly ran away in great

pain, and soon fell over a precipice of ice into the sea, and I saw it no more. The danger being over, I again turned my attention to the eagle, and suspecting that it was faint for want of food, I took a meat fruit, cut it into small slices, and gave the slices to the eagle which ate them with avidity.

Happily for me, I had accidentally turned the head of the eagle towards the south-east while I was feeding it, and this course it pursued with a rapid motion. In a few hours I saw the Western Isles, and soon after had the pleasure of seeing Old England. I took no notice of the seas or islands over which I passed. The eagle descended gradually as it drew near the shore intending, as I suppose, to alight on one of the Welsh mountains; but when it came to the distance of about sixty yards two guns were fired at it, and the eagle flew away with amazing swiftness.

This circumstance alarmed me exceedingly, but recovering a little, I once more looked down upon the earth, when, to my great joy, I saw Margate at a little distance, and the eagle descending on the old tower whence it had carried me on the morning of the day before. It no sooner came down than I threw myself off, happy to find that I was once more restored to the world. The eagle flew away in a few



minutes and I sat down to compose my fluttering spirits, which I did in a few hours.

RUDOLPH ERICH RASPE:  
*The Exploits of Baron Munchausen.*

### NOTES

#### I. Grammatical :

'Ruins', meaning 'remains of a building', is generally used in the plural.

'Fleeting' is a participial adjective, qualifying 'nature.'

In 'The moon shining bright during the whole night, I had a fine view . . . .', the phrase, 'the moon . . . . whole night' is known in grammar as a phrase of absolute construction and the noun, 'moon' is called nominative absolute, the phrase not being connected grammatically with the rest of the sentence. Note similar instances in 'my hand being soon relieved, I ran to some distance' and 'The danger being over, I turned my attention . . . .'

'Cool' and 'cold', meaning 'coolness' and 'coldness', are used as nouns.

'Circumstance', meaning 'event', is used in the singular; the plural has a different meaning ('the state of one's affairs').

'Climates' in the plural means 'countries.'

#### II. General :

Teneriffe is the largest of the Canary Isles and contains a famous extinct volcano peak, named after the island.

'Terra Firma' literally means 'dry solid land': the mainland of America was so named to distinguish it from the islands near it.

'Draught' is pronounced 'drahft.'

### EXERCISES

- I. (a) Where and how did the Baron find the eagle that carried him off from England?

- (b) Describe the wonderful fruits seen by the Baron in South America.
  - (c) How did the Baron keep himself warm while in the Polar regions?
  - (e) How did the Baron save himself from the Polar bear?
- II. (a) Transform the following exclamatory sentence into assertive and interrogatory ones:—  
How great was my surprise to see that it had all the appearance of roast meat!
- (b) Change the voice of—
    - (i) I was prevented by a sudden discharge of guns from a party of soldiers.
    - (ii) Suddenly I was alarmed by the eagle striking its head against a hard transparent substance.
    - (iii) I was soon thrown to some distance among the bushes by the eagle.
  - (c) Analyse the following sentence, splitting it up into its clauses:—  
When the danger was past I went to view the eagle which was lying on the grass fast asleep.



## GOLD

### *New Words :*

bracelets	design	nuggets	gravel	pan
immense	risking	beads	vinegar	dams
irrigation	trenches	located	exception	rust
permanent	pyramids	evidence	unique	ivory
amber	jade	tarnish	flatten	wire
delicate	twilight	monuments	comparison	
bronze	grain	tremendous		

### *New Idioms :*

none the less	near at hand
served for	account for

The first of all metals used by man was gold, and this seems to have been true everywhere in the ancient world. Rings and bracelets, collar and breast-ornaments, beautiful in design and workmanship, have been found in the ancient tombs and buried towns of such widely separated places as Sumatra and Ireland, Egypt and Peru. Most, if not all, of this early gold came from stream beds rather than from mines, and it is not difficult to pan the dust or nuggets of gold from the gravel and sands of gold-bearing streams. Then, too, free raw gold was quite probably much more common than now. But it is hard to understand just why the ancient folk wanted gold at all. It certainly was of no use to them for

making tools, being far too soft and scarce. Yet, from a time altogether lost in the mists of the past, men have sought gold as we seek it to-day, risking their lives, undergoing terrible hardships and traveling immense distances to get it. It does not seem to have been because it represented money to them then as it does to us now, for among both ancient folks and peoples of much later times other things served for money long before gold was used—shells and beads in Stone Age Europe, pearls and copper among the American Indians, iron treated with vinegar in Sparta, copper rings in Gaul, even stone mill-wheels in the South Sea Islands. Yet at a time somewhat after the beginning of farming, there began a great moving about over the earth of the early food-raising folk, and, from the traces they have left behind, it appears that whatever else they did, all of them hunted gold.

These first farming folks raised their crops by irrigation—that is, they built dams or dug trenches that could turn the water from a stream to flood their fields. While this was quite necessary in rainless countries like the Nile and Mesopotamia valleys, where farming seems to have begun, it was not at all needed in other parts of the world to which some of these first farmers moved. But they did it none the



less, and so to-day we can follow these ancient irrigating folks through Western Asia, India and China by the trenches that they dug. And wherever we find these old irrigating works, they are located almost without exception along the banks of a stream that once bore gold.

Later farming folks left even more permanent marks behind. For it became their custom to build, wherever they went, either pyramids of earth, stone or brick, or to construct great circles of rock set on end. Just as we can follow the earlier peoples, so we can trace these later stone-circle and pyramid builders all over the world by the monuments they left behind. You will find pyramids or traces of them in Egypt, Mesopotamia, India, China, and across the South Seas to Central America, Mexico and Peru, while stone-circles appear all about the Mediterranean Sea and northward through France to the British Isles. And all through this great belt around the earth we find evidence of the use of gold. In some places other metals came, in time, to be mined—copper, tin, silver, lead and iron, but in only a few places were all of these produced, even when they were near at hand and easier to be had than gold.

You might say that the ancient folks wanted gold for ornaments, and people have certainly liked to wear

ornaments from the earliest times—animal teeth and ivory, amber, pearl and jade, and even coloured shells. But while men have gone great distances to get these bits of jewellery, they made no such tremendous journeys, nor did they face such dangers as they had to face in the search for gold.

Gold is a unique metal in many ways. It does not rust away like iron, nor tarnish as most other bright metals do. It is so easily worked that you can flatten a piece of it into sheets so thin that two hundred thousand of them will make a pile only one inch high. Or you can draw a single grain of gold into a wire over five hundred feet in length. And these ancient folks knew how to make both sheets and wire, although they were not so fine as ours. Certainly with such metal you could make quite delicate, beautiful and lasting ornaments. But is that enough to account for all the tremendous urge there seems to have been to seek it?

Gold is a yellow metal, bright and shining when it is polished—the colour of the sun—and that, in itself, is perhaps the answer; for gold may have seemed to these simple folks to be a piece of the sun found on earth. And every one of these early gold-seeking peoples, whether the Mayas or the Incas of America, the South Sea Islanders, or the ancient



farming folks of China, India, Mesopotamia, Egypt, Italy, France, Spain and Britain, were all of them worshippers of the sun.

Whatever the reason for its beginning, this early search for gold was to become a matter of more importance to us than even gold itself has ever been. For it led to the use of the other metals, and that path, first traced around the earth by the gold seekers, was to be followed by the maker of copper, bronze, iron and steel tools. Once the age of metals had started, it spread through the world with such swiftness that the million-year-long twilight of the Stone Ages changed into the world we know to-day in what, by comparison, would seem but a moment of time.

THOMAS HIBBEN

## NOTES

### I. Grammatical :

'Folk' (pronounced 'fok') is singular in form but plural in use; the plural form is also used.

'A unique': Note that the indefinite article, 'a' has been used instead of 'an.'

Note the spellings of 'irrigation' and 'copper.'

### II. General :

Mayas—The primitive people of Mexico; they were highly civilised.

Incas—An old royal race of Peru, extirpated by the Spaniards.

## EXERCISES

- I. (a) Name some of the articles serving as money before gold was used.
- (b) Why did the ancient people undergo terrible hardships and even risked their lives to get gold?
- (c) What marks did the ancient farming people leave behind them? How can we trace the path followed by them?
- (d) Describe the utility of gold.
- II. (a) Change the voice of the verbs in the following sentences from the active to the passive:—
- (i) The first farming folks raised their crops by irrigation.
- (ii) Later farming folks left even more permanent marks behind.
- (iii) And all through this great belt around the earth we find evidence of the use of gold.
- (b) Change the following interrogative sentence to an assertive one:—
- But is that enough to account for all the tremendous urge there seem to have been to seek it?
- (c) Analyse the following sentences, showing the clauses they consist of:—
- (i) It does not rust away like iron, nor tarnish like most other bright metals.
- (ii) Gold is a yellow metal, bright and shining when it is polished.
-



# THE DESTRUCTION OF POMPEII

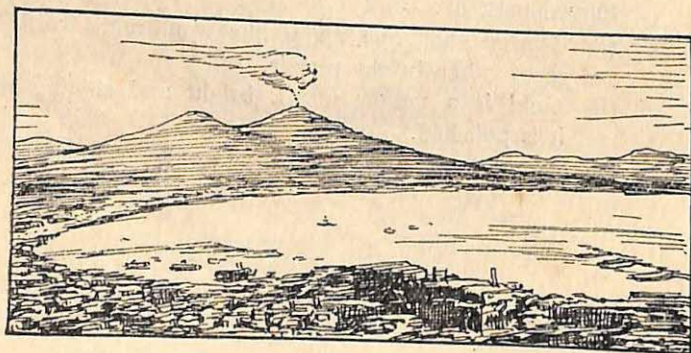
## *New Words :*

fortified	maritime	eruption	excavation
successive	catastrophe	vicinity	suffocated
preserved	charred	copious	moulds
melancholy	skeletons	decades	estimated
majority	appreciated	projected	deposits
ventured	succumbed	victims	representation
exhaled	admiral	pumice	volcanic
crater	extinct	refuge	layer
			subterranean

## *New Idioms :*

in outline                      set out                      at the foot of

The beautiful city of Pompeii stood at the foot of Vesuvius, overlooking the Sarno. Pompeii thus united the advantages of an easily fortified hill town with those of a maritime city.



POMPEII

Previous to the terrible eruption of 79 A.D. Vesuvius was considered an extinct volcano. "Above

these places," says Strabo, writing in the time of Augustus, "lies Vesuvius, the sides of which are well cultivated, even to the summit. It has a cindery appearance; for the rock is porous and of a sooty colour, the appearance suggesting that the summit might once have contained craters, the fires of which died out when there was no longer anything left to burn."

Earthquakes, however were of common occurrence in Campania. An especially violent shock on the fifth of February, 63 A.D. gave warning of the re-awakening of Vesuvius. Great damage was done throughout the region lying between Naples and Nuceria, but the shock was the most severe at Pompeii, a large part of the buildings of the city having been thrown down. The prosperous and enterprising inhabitants at once set about rebuilding. When the final catastrophe came, on the twenty-fourth of August, 79 A.D., most of the houses were in a good state of repair, and the rebuilding of at least two temples, those of Apollo and Isis, had been completed.

Our chief source of information for the events of August 24-26, 79 A.D., is a couple of letters of the Younger Pliny to Tacitus, who proposed to make use of them in writing his history. Pliny was staying at Misenum with his uncle, the Elder Pliny, who was in



command of the Roman fleet. In the first letter he tells of his uncle's fate. On the afternoon of August 24, Admiral Pliny set out with ships to rescue from danger the people at the foot of Vesuvius, particularly in the vicinity of Herculaneum. He came too late; it was no longer possible to effect a landing. So he directed his course to Stabiae, where he spent the night; and there on the following morning he died, suffocated by the fumes that were exhaled from the earth. The second letter gives an account of the writer's own experience at Misenum.

With the help of the letters of Pliny and the facts established by excavations, it is possible to picture to ourselves the progress of the eruption with a fair degree of clearness.

The subterranean fires at Vesuvius pressed upwards to find an outlet. The accumulations of volcanic dust and pumice stone that had been heaped upon the mountain by former eruptions were again hurled to a great height, and came down upon the surrounding country. On the west side of Vesuvius they mingled with torrents of rain, and flowed as a vast stream of mud down over Herculaneum. On the south side, driven by a north-west wind as they descended from the upper air, they spread out into a thick cloud which covered Pompeii and the

plain of the Sarno. Out of this cloud broken fragments of pumice stone—the average size not larger than a walnut—rained down to the depth of eight to ten feet; then followed volcanic dust, accompanied by a downpour of water. With the storm of dust came successive shocks of earthquake.

Such was, in outline, the course of the eruption. It must have begun early in the morning of August 24, and the stream of mud must have commenced immediately to move in the direction of Herculaneum. Towards evening, the ships of Herculaneum ran into the hail of pumice stone which, during the night, reached Stabiae and so increased in violence that Admiral Pliny was obliged to leave his sleeping room from fear that the door might be blocked up by the falling masses.

Early in the morning of August 25, there was a severe shock of earthquake which was felt as far as Misenum. Then the dust began to fall, and a cloud of fearful blackness, pierced through and through with flashes of lightning, settled down over land and sea. At Misenum even, it became dark; "Not," says Pliny, "as on a cloudy night when there is no moon, but as in a room which has been completely closed."

How long the fall of dust lasted we can only



infer from the fact that when it ceased the sun had not yet set. In Misenum, which the shower of pumice stone had not reached, everything was covered with a thick layer of dust. Although the earthquake shocks continued, the inhabitants went back into their houses. But Pompeii and Stabiae had been covered so deep that only the roofs of the houses, where these had not fallen in, projected above the surface; and Herculaneum had wholly disappeared.

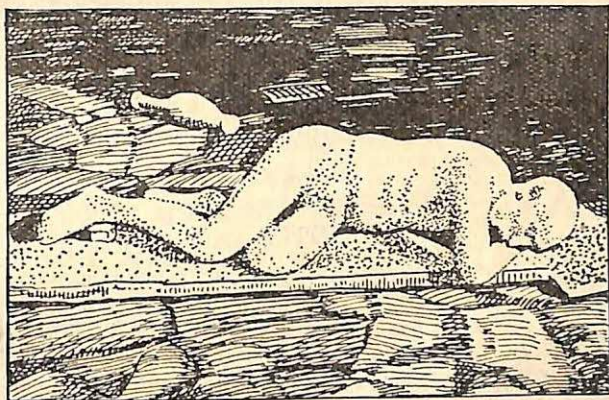
All the plain of the Sarno was buried, as were also the slopes of the mountains on the south.

The woodwork of the buildings in Pompeii has in many cases been preserved, but in a completely charred condition.

With the dust a copious rain must have fallen; for the bodies of those who perished in the storm of dust left perfect moulds, into a number of which soft plaster of Paris has been poured, making those casts of human figures which lend a melancholy interest to the collections in the little Museum at Pompeii.

From the number of skeletons discovered in the past few decades it has been estimated that in Pompeii itself about two thousand persons perished. As the city contained a population of twenty thousand or more, it is evident that the majority of the inhabitants fled; since the eruption commenced in the morning, while

the hail of pumice stone did not begin till the afternoon, those who appreciated the greatness of the danger had time to escape. It is, however, impossible to say how many fled when it was already too late, and lost their lives outside the city. Many perished at the harbour. Here were found many skeletons, and with them a quantity of gold jewellery, which was afterwards placed in the Museum at Naples. The



THE CAST OF A VICTIM OF THE ERUPTION

most reasonable explanation of the discovery is that these persons, gathering up their valuables, fled from Pompeii at the time of the eruption either in order to escape by sea or to take refuge elsewhere. Flight in either case was cut off. If ships were in the harbour, they must have been filled with the volcanic deposits; if there had been a bridge across the river it



was probably thrown down by the earthquake. Others who went out earlier to the Sarno may have made good their escape. Of those who remained in the city many were buried in the houses; others, as the hail of pumice stone ceased, ventured out into the streets where they soon succumbed to the shower of dust that immediately followed. As the bodies wasted away, little except the bones was left in the hollows formed by the dust that hardened around them, and the casts, which have been made from time to time since 1863, give in some cases a remarkably clear and sharp representation of the victims.

—AUGUST MAU (*Adapted*)

### NOTES

#### I. Grammatical :

In 'the prosperous and enterprising inhabitants at once set about rebuilding', 'enterprising' is a participial adjective, and 'rebuilding' is a gerund, being the object of the verb, 'set about.'

'downpour' and 'outlet' are compound nouns made up of verbs preceded by adverbs.

'information' is generally used in the singular; it has a special meaning in the plural.

Note the spellings of 'successive' and 'succumbed' (pronounced, 'suk-se-sive' and 'suk-kumed'.)

#### II. General :

Pliny was the name of two Romans of distinction, known as the Elder Pliny and the Younger Pliny. The first was not only an admiral of the Roman fleet but also a naturalist of high reputation who perished in the eruption of Vesuvius

(in 79 A.D.); the second, his nephew, achieved renown by a series of historical *Letters*, and died in 113 A.D.

Tacitus was Consul in Rome under the Emperor Nerva but is more famous as one of the ablest of Roman historians. His *Annals* is the groundwork of all later history. He died in 130 A.D.

### EXERCISES

- I.
  - (a) What were the advantages of the city of Pompeii?
  - (b) How did the Elder Pliny meet with his death?
  - (c) When did the eruption of Vesuvius begin? Briefly describe its progress.
- II. Transform the voice of the verbs in the following sentences from the active to the passive:—
  - (i) Pompeii united the advantages of a hill town with those of a maritime city.
  - (ii) These casts of human figures lend a melancholy interest to the collections.
  - (iii) They appreciated the greatness of the danger and escaped in time.



## A NIGHT ON MANAS SAROWAR

### *New Words :*

surpassing	transparent	enchanting	theme
slight	ruffled	venture	mortals
perish	velocity	capsize	glided
mysterious	lurked	swallowed	splash
influence	startled	shrilly	audibly
summit	yearning	vanities	assumed
reflected	odour	triumphal	glaciers
liquid	phenomena	entrapped	fleeting
greetings	witnessed	display	destination
pitch	trace	tinge	incomparable
surf	nigh	grip	oval

### *New Idioms :*

of late	shot down	crept on
---------	-----------	----------

Manas-sarowar is the holiest and most famous of all the lakes of the world, and in its clear waters the ashes of the Hindus find a grave as honoured as in the waters of the Ganges.

I longed to be there, for the lake had never been sounded; I would sail in it and learn something of the monasteries and the life of the Hindu and the Tibetan pilgrims, for the lake is sacred in the eyes of Buddhists also, who call it Tso-mavang, or the Holy Lake.

The first view of Manas-sarowar from the hills on the shore caused us to burst into tears of joy at

the wonderful landscape and its surpassing beauty. The oval lake lies between two of the finest and most famous mountains in the world, Kailas in the north and Gurla Mandatta in the south.

We sat for an hour and enjoyed the incomparable beauty of the scene. A slight ripple ruffled the surface of the water, but in the middle the lake was as smooth as if oil had been poured on it. When I asked our guides what they thought of a boat trip across the lake, they answered in one voice that it was impossible. Mortals

who venture on the lake, which is the home of the gods, must perish. I was also told that in the middle the lake was not level as on the shore, but formed a transparent dome and up its round arch no boat could mount, and even if we succeeded in getting the boat up it would shoot down the other side with such a velocity that it must capsize, and we should perish in the waves.

We waited for good weather, but the wind blew

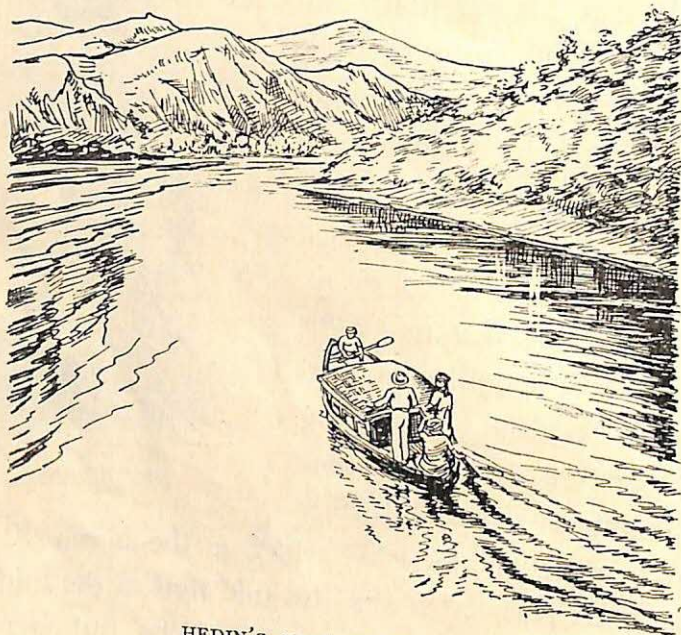


SVEN HEDIN



violently and the surf beat against the shore. I, therefore, resolved to wait till night, for of late the nights had been calmer than the days.

When the sun set, the wind increased in strength and heavy clouds spread up from the south-west. At



HEDIN'S BOAT ON THE LAKE

seven o'clock it was pitch dark all around; not a star shone out and not a trace was visible of the outline of the shore and of the snowy mountains. The lake was buried in the shades of night. But an hour later the wind fell, the air became quite calm and the waves beat, making soft music on the bank.

We set out and, at my command, the boatmen took a firm grip of the oars and the boat glided out from the beach. The great lake was dark and mysterious in the night, and unknown depths lurked beneath us. The outlines of the hills on the shore were still visible behind us, but we had not gone far before they were swallowed up by higher mountains farther off, which gradually came into view. The roar of the surf on the beach was the only sound in the silence of the night, except the splash of the oars and the voices of oarsmen singing in time with their strokes.

The air was quite still. A long, smooth swell caused the boat to rock slightly. All was quiet, and I asked myself if beings other than ourselves were listening to the splash of the oars. A little later all the southern sky flamed up like a sea on fire. The flashes quickly followed one after the other and shot up to the highest heavens. But when the glow died out, the darkness was more intense, and the awful stillness of the night was enhanced. By the light of the flashes I could see the faces of the two boatmen who were startled and uneasy and did not dare disturb the silence by their singing.

The cry of a water-bird broke shrilly on the silence of the night, and made us feel less lonely. A



slight hiss of the surf breaking on the south-eastern shore was audible. In the south clouds gathered round the summit of Gurla Mandatta and the breeze fell.

The queen of night, with diamonds in her dark hair, looked down upon the holy lake. The midnight hour was passed, and the early morning hours crept slowly on. Leaning on the side of the boat I enjoyed the voyage to the full. Nothing I remember in my long wanderings in Asia could compare with the overpowering beauty of this journey. The wonderful scene seemed to belong not to the earth with the mortals, its cares, its sins and its vanities, but to the fairyland of dreams and imagination.

The dark sky passed into light blue and the morn drew nigh from the east. There was a faint dawn over the eastern mountains, and soon their outlines stood out sharply. The clouds assumed a faint rosy hue which gradually grew stronger, and was reflected on the smooth water looking as if it were a garden of fresh roses. We rowed among floating rose-buds; there was an odour of morning in the air. The landscape slowly regained its colour and the new day began its triumphal progress over the earth.

The highest peaks of Gurla Mandatta caught the first gleam of the rising sun. In the growing light

of dawn the mountain, with its snowfields and glaciers, had shown silvery white; but now in a moment the extreme points of the summit began to glow like liquid gold. The brilliant light crept slowly down the mountain, and the thin white morning clouds, which hovered over the lower slopes, assumed a tinge of purple and gold.

Phenomena like these are fleeting guests on the earth; they come and go in the early hours of the morning. They are seen only once in a lifetime and are like greetings from a better world. Thousands and thousands of pilgrims have wandered round the lake in the course of centuries, and have seen dawn and sunset, but have never witnessed the display which we gazed upon from the middle of the holy lake on this memorable night. But soon the magical effects of light and colour faded away. The country assumed its usual aspect and was overshadowed by dense clouds.

The hours passed by, but there was no sign that we were nearing our destination. We could not decide which bank was the nearest, and we seemed to be in the centre of this boundless lake.

A few hours later yaks and sheep were visible on the hills and we knew at last that the shore was near. The two tired and sleepy boatmen laboured



painfully at the oars. We talked of how pleasant it would be to land, but the shore still receded before us and hours slipped past.

At last we saw the ground through the clear water. The time was half-past one. We rowed northwards, and after an hour and a half discovered a place where the boat could be drawn ashore. We had been eighteen hours on the water.

Wonderful, attractive, enchanting lake! Theme of story and legend, playground of storms and changes of colour, goal of weary, yearning pilgrims, the holiest of all the lakes of the world art thou, Tso mavang, lake of all lakes!

There are certainly more beautiful lakes in the world but there is none which unites with natural beauty such an influence on the faith and souls of men.

SVEN HEDIN—(*Abridged*)

## NOTES

### Grammatical :

'Must' is a defective verb, not having all the forms of moods and tenses complete.

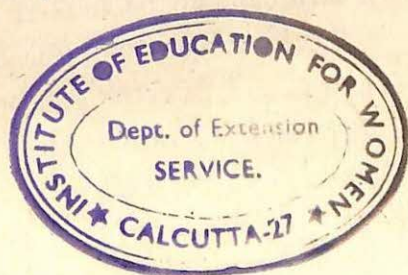
In 'Nothing could compare with the overpowering beauty' the verb, 'could compare', though active in form, is passive in sense, meaning 'nothing could be compared with.' Such verbs are known as quasi-passive verbs.

'Phenomena' is the plural of 'phenomenon.'

'Nearest' denotes space or distance; 'next' denotes order or position.  
'Sheep' has the same form in the singular and the plural.

### EXERCISES

- I. (a) Describe the position of Manas-sarowar. How is it looked upon by the Hindus and the Buddhists?  
(b) Why did the guides object to a boat trip across the lake?  
(c) Describe briefly the midnight journey by boat on Manas-sarowar.  
(d) Give a description of the wonderful display of colour on the lake at the approach of morning.
- II. (a) Transform the following exclamatory sentence into an assertive one:—  
Theme of story and legend, playground of storms and changes of colour, goal of weary, yearning pilgrims, the holiest of all the lakes of the world, art thou, Tso-mawang, lake of all lakes!  
(b) Say whether the verbs *in italics* in the following sentence are principal, auxiliary or defective verbs:—  
Up its round arch no boat *could mount*, and even if we *succeeded* in getting the boat up, it *would shoot* down the other side with such a velocity that it *must* capsize, and we would perish in the waves.  
(c) Find out the direct and indirect objects in the following sentences:—  
(i) I asked our guides what they thought of a boat trip across the lake.  
(ii) I asked myself if beings other than ourselves were listening to the splash of the oars.





## STUDENTS AND THE VACATION

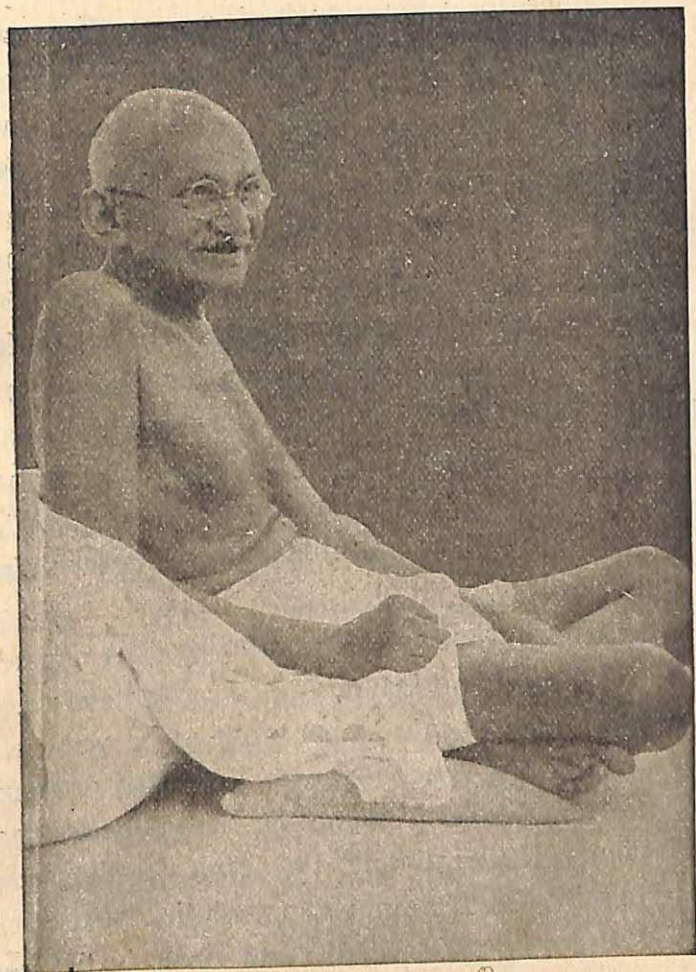
### *New Words :*

<b>institution</b>	<b>contact</b>	<b>previous</b>	<b>suspicion</b>
<b>adults</b>	<b>sanitation</b>	<b>spare</b>	<b>prescribe</b>
<b>vicious</b>	<b>instruction</b>	<b>original</b>	<b>development</b>
<b>obviously</b>	<b>dedication</b>	<b>exclusive</b>	<b>scheme</b>
<b>elaborately</b>	<b>permanent</b>	<b>response</b>	<b>economic</b>
<b>hygienic</b>	<b>solution</b>	<b>income</b>	<b>mischief</b>
<b>excreta</b>	<b>habitable</b>	<b>manure</b>	<b>embankment</b>
<b>persuade</b>	<b>drug</b>	<b>grievances</b>	<b>superstitions</b>
<b>dignity</b>	<b>self-reliance</b>	<b>equipment</b>	<b>qualification</b>

### *New Idioms :*

**beaten paths**                      **in contact with**                      **within reach**

Students should devote the whole of their vacation to village service. To this end, instead of taking their walks along beaten paths, they should walk to the villages within easy reach of their institutions, and study the condition of the village folk and befriend them. This habit will bring them in contact with the villagers who, when the students actually go to stay in their midst, will, by reason of the previous occasional contact, receive them as friends rather than as strangers to be looked upon with suspicion. During the long vacation, the students will stay in the villages, and offer to conduct classes for adults, teach the rules of sanitation to the villagers, and



MAHATMA GANDHI



attend to the ordinary cases of illness. They will also introduce the spinning-wheel among them, and teach them the use of every spare minute. In order that this may be done, students and teachers will have to revise their ideas of the uses of vacation. Often do thoughtless teachers prescribe lessons to be done during the vacation. This, in my opinion is in any case, a vicious habit. Vacation is just the period when the minds of the students should be free from routine work, and be left free for self-help and original development. The village work I have mentioned is easily the best form of recreation and light instruction. It is obviously the best preparation for dedication to exclusive village service after finishing studies. /

The scheme for full village service does not now need to be elaborately described. Whatever was done during the vacation, has now to be put on a permanent footing. The villagers will also be prepared for a fuller response. Village life has to be touched at all points, the economic, the hygienic, the social and the political. The immediate solution of the economic distress is, undoubtedly, the wheel in the vast majority of cases. It at once adds to the income of the villagers and keeps them from mischief. The hygienic side includes the fight against insanitation and dis-

ease. Here the student is expected to work with his own body and labour to dig trenches for burying excreta and other refuse and turning them into manure, for cleaning wells and tanks, for building embankments, for removing rubbish, and generally, to make the villages more habitable. The village worker has also to touch the social side and gently persuade the people to give up bad customs and bad habits, such as untouchability, infant marriages, unequal matches, drink and drug evil, and many local superstitions. Lastly, comes the political part. Here the worker will study the political grievances of the villagers and teach them the dignity of freedom, self-reliance and self-help in everything. This makes, in my opinion, complete adult education. But this does not complete the task of the village worker. He must take care and charge of the little ones, and begin their instruction, and carry on a night school for adults. This literary training is but a part of a whole education course, and only a means to the larger and described above.

I claim that the equipment for this service is a large heart and a character above suspicion. Given these two conditions, every other needed qualification is bound to follow.

MAHATMA GANDHI: *Young India*.



## NOTES

## Grammatical :

In the sentence, 'They will . . . teach them the use of every spare minute,' the verb, 'will teach' has two objects, namely, 'them', called the Indirect object and 'use,' called the Direct object.

'Excreta' is used only in the plural.

## EXERCISES

- I. (a) How, in the opinion of Mahatma Gandhi, should students spend their vacations?
  - (b) What is Mahatma Gandhi's opinion about teachers prescribing lessons for the vacation?
  - (c) Enumerate some of the works which a village worker must attend to for the improvement of the hygienic and the social condition of villages.
  - (d) What are the two essential qualifications of a village worker?
- II. (a) Point out the Direct and Indirect objects of the verb in the following sentence:—  
 The worker will teach them the dignity of freedom, self-reliance and self-help in everything.
  - (b) Change the voice of the verb in the above sentence from the active to the passive, making each of the objects the subject of sentence and pointing out the Retained object in each case:—
  - (c) Analyse the following sentence, splitting it up into clauses:—  
 This habit will bring them in contact with the villagers, who, when the students actually go to stay in their midst, will receive them as friends.

## RAIN IN SUMMER

New Words :

dust

spout

twisted

thought

clatters

tramp

tawny

incessant

hide

pane

pastures

gutter

fiery

असह्य गर्जना

How beautiful is the rain!

After the dust and heat,

In the broad and fiery street,

In the narrow lane,

How beautiful is the rain.

How it clatters along the roofs,

Like the tramp of hoofs! + झुंझुं १२ गर्जना

How it gushes and struggles out

From the throat of the overflowing spout!

Across the window pane

It pours and pours;

And swift and wide,

With a muddy tide,

Like a river down the gutter roars;

The rain, the welcome rain!

The sick man from his chamber looks

At the twisted brooks;

He can feel the cool

Breath of each little pool;



His fevered brain  
Grows calm again,  
And he breathes a blessing on the rain.

In the country, on every side,  
Where far and wide,  
Like a panther's tawny and spotted hide  
Stretches the plain,  
To the dry grass and the drier grain  
How welcome is the rain!

Near at hand,  
From under the sheltering trees,  
The farmer sees  
His pastures and his fields of grain,  
As they bend their tops  
To the numberless beating drops  
Of the incessant rain,  
He counts it as no sin  
That he sees therein  
Only his own thrift and gain.

*H. W. Longfellow.*

### EXERCISES

1. Why are showers of rain most welcome? What are the blessings the rain brings to us?
2. Explain:—fiery street; twisted brooks; incessant rain.

## THE LIGHT OF OTHER DAYS

New Words :

slumber's  
garlands

treads  
linked

dimmed  
banquet

~ Oft in the stilly night

Ere slumber's chain has bound me,  
Fond Memory brings the light  
Of other days around me;  
The smiles, the tears  
Of boyhood's years,  
The words of love then spoken;  
The eyes that shone,  
Now dimm'd and gone,  
The cheerful hearts now broken!

Thus in the stilly night

Ere slumber's chain has bound me,  
Sad Memory brings the light  
Of other days around me.

When I remember all

The friends so link'd together  
I've seen around me fall  
Like leaves in wintry weather,  
I feel like one  
Who treads alone



some banquet-hall deserted,  
 Whose lights are fled  
 Whose garlands dead,  
 And all but he departed!

Thus in the stilly night  
 Ere slumber's chain has bound me,  
 Sad Memory brings the light  
 Of other days around me.

*Thomas Moore.*

### NOTES

#### I. Grammatical :

In 'All but he departed' 'but' is strictly a preposition (meaning 'except') and so 'him' ought to have been substituted for 'he.'

#### II. General :

'Stilly' is a poetic substitute for 'still,' and 'ere' for 'before.'

### EXERCISES

1. Why is Memory said to be 'fond' and 'sad'?
2. How does the poet compare the world to a banquet-hall?
3. Explain—
  - (a) Like leaves in wintry weather.
  - (b) Ere slumber's chain has bound me.

## I REMEMBER

*New Words :*

**wink**  
**robin**

**swallows**  
**laburnum**

**lilac**  
**slender**

**feathers**  
**ignorance**

I remember, I remember,  
The house where I was born,  
The little window, where the sun  
Came peeping in at morn:

He never came a wink too soon,  
Nor brought too long a day,  
But now I often wish the night  
Had borne my breath away!

I remember, I remember,  
The roses, red and white,  
The violets, and the lily-cups,  
Those flowers made of light!

The lilacs, where the robin built  
And where my brother set  
The laburnum on his birthday:  
The tree is living yet!

I remember, I remember,  
Where I was used to swing,  
And though the air must rush as fresh,  
To swallows on the wing,



My spirit flew in feathers then,  
That is so heavy now;  
And summer pools could hardly cool  
The fever on my brow!

I remember, I remember,  
The fir-trees, dark and high;  
I used to think their slender tops  
Were close against the sky:

It was a childish ignorance:  
But now 'tis little joy  
To know I'm farther off from heaven  
Than when I was a boy.

*Thomas Hood.*

### EXERCISES

1. What does the poem tell us about childhood?
2. Explain the following expressions—  
My spirit flew in feathers then; those flowers made  
of light; the fever on my brow.

## LUCY GRAY

*New Words :*

**solitary**

**guide**

**maintain**

**lantern**

**hawthorn**

**wretched**

**lonesome**

**spy**

**tracked**

**whistles**

**plank**

**moor**

**furlong**

**rough**

**wanton**

**mate**

**overlooked**

**trips**

**minster**

*New Idioms :*

**rough and smooth**

**break of day**



WILLIAM WORDSWORTH

Oft I had heard of Lucy Gray:  
And, when I crossed the wild,  
I chanced to see at break of day  
The solitary child.



No mate, no comrade Lucy knew;  
She dwelt on a wide moor,  
—The sweetest thing that ever grew  
Beside a human door!

You yet may spy the fawn at play,  
The hare upon the green;  
But the sweet face of Lucy Gray  
Will never more be seen. ✓

✓ "To-night will be a stormy night—  
You to the town must go;  
And take a lantern, Child, to light  
Your mother through the snow."

"That, Father! will I gladly do;  
'Tis scarcely afternoon—  
The minister-clock has just struck two,  
And yonder is the moon!"

The storm came on before its time;  
She wandered up and down;  
And many a hill did Lucy climb;  
But never reached the town. ✓

✓ The wretched parents all that night  
Went shouting far and wide;  
But there was neither sound nor sight  
To serve them for a guide.

At daybreak on a hill they stood  
That overlooked the moor;  
And thence they saw the bridge of wood,  
A furlong from their door.

They wept—and, turning homeward, cried,  
“In heaven we all shall meet;”  
—When in the snow the mother spied  
The print of Lucy's feet.

Half breathless from the steep hill's edge  
They tracked the footmarks small;  
And through the broken hawthorn hedge,  
And by the long stone wall;

And then an open field they crossed:  
The marks were still the same;  
They tracked them on nor ever lost;  
And to the bridge they came.

They followed from the snowy bank  
Those footmarks, one by one,  
Into the middle of the plank;  
And farther there were none!

✓  
—Yet some maintain that to this day  
She is a living child;  
That you may see sweet Lucy Gray  
Upon the lonesome wild.



O'er, rough and smooth she trips along,  
And never looks behind;  
And sings a solitary song  
That whistles in the wild.

*W. Wordsworth.*

### NOTES

#### I. Grammatical :

'To light' is gerundial infinitive in 'to light your mother through the snow.'

Note that the phrase, 'many a' takes a singular noun after it.

'Furlong' is the adverbial object of 'saw'; 'song' is the cognate object of 'sings.'

#### II. General :

'Oft' is the poetic substitute for 'often.'

A 'furlong' is one-eighth of a mile.

### EXERCISES

1. Tell, in your own words, the story of Lucy Gray.
2. Why do villagers refuse to believe that Lucy Gray is dead?

## THE THREE FISHERS

### *New Words :*

**bar**      **harbour**      **ragged**      **gleam**      **night-rack**  
**wringing**      **trimmed**      **corpses**      **moaning**      **squall**

### *New Idioms :*

**went down**      **sat up**

Three fishers went sailing away to the West,  
Away to the West as the Sun went down:  
Each thought of the woman who loved him the best,  
And the children stood watching them out of the town:  
X For men must work and women must weep, X  
And there's little to earn, and many to keep,  
Though the harbour bar be moaning.

Three wives sat up in the lighthouse tower,  
And they trimmed the lamps as the sun went down;  
They looked at the squall, and they looked at the  
shower,  
And the night-rack came rolling up ragged and brown.  
But men must work and women must weep,  
Though storms be sudden, and waters deep,  
And the harbour bar be moaning.

Three corpses lay out on the shining sands  
In the morning gleam as the tide went down,  
And the women are weeping and wringing their hands  
—For those who will never come home to the town;



For men must work and women must weep,  
And the sooner it's over, the sooner to sleep;  
And good-bye to the bar and its moaning.

—*Charles Kingsley.*

### NOTES

'Sands' in the plural means 'the sandy beach of a sea';  
'Home,' is the adverbial object of 'come'; 'to the town' is also an adverbial phrase.

### EXERCISES

1. Narrate, in prose, the story of the three fishers.
2. Explain—(the harbour bar be moaning); (men must work and women must weep.)

## THE VAGABOND

*New Words :*

**vagabond**

**lave**

**haven**

**linger**

Give to me the life I love,  
Let the lave go by me,  
Give the jolly heaven above  
And the by-way nigh me,  
Bed in the bush with stars to see—  
Bread I dip in the river—  
There's the life for a man like me,  
There's the life for ever.

Let the blow fall soon or late,  
Let what will be q'er me;  
Give the face of earth around  
And the road before me.  
Wealth I seek not, hope nor love,  
Nor a friend to know me;  
All I seek, the heaven above  
And the road below me.

Or let autumn fall on me  
Where afield I linger,  
Silencing the bird on tree,  
Biting the blue finger.



White as meal the frosty field—  
 Warm the fireside haven—  
 Not to autumn will I yield,  
 Not to winter even.

Let the blow fall soon or late,  
 Let what will be o'er me;  
 Give the face of earth around  
 And the road before me.  
 Wealth I ask not, hope nor love,  
 Nor a friend to know me;  
 All I ask, the heaven above,  
 And the road below me.

—R. L. Stevenson.

### NOTES

#### Grammatical :

'Silencing' and 'biting' go with 'autumn,' and not with 'I.'

#### General :

Lave—the rest.

The blow—i.e., of Death.

### EXERCISES

1. What kind of life appeals most to the poet?

2. Explain—

(a) Give the face of earth around  
 And the road before me.

(b) Let the blow fall soon or late,  
 Let what will be o'er me.

# THE MAN OF LIFE UPRIGHT

*New Words :*

<b>upright</b>	<b>pilgrimage</b>	<b>unaffrighted</b>	<b>scorning</b>
<b>vaults</b>	<b>violence</b>	<b>armour</b>	<b>defence</b>
<b>horrors</b>	<b>sober</b>	<b>inn</b>	<b>terrors</b>
			<b>delude</b>
			<b>vanity</b>

The man of life upright,  
Whose guiltless heart is free  
From all dishonest deeds,  
Or thoughts of vanity;

The man whose silent days  
In harmless joys are spent,  
Whom hopes cannot delude  
Nor sorrow discontent;

That man needs neither towers  
Nor armour for defence,  
Nor secret vaults to fly  
From thunder's violence.

He only can behold  
With unaffrighted eyes  
The horrors of the deep,  
The terrors of the skies.

Thus scorning all the cares  
That fate or fortune brings  
He makes the heaven his book,  
His wisdom heavenly things;



Good thoughts his only friends,  
His wealth a well-spent age,  
The earth his sober inn  
And quiet pilgrimage.

—*T. Campion.*

### NOTES

'Only' in 'he only can behold' is an adjective.

Note the singular verb in 'fate or fortune brings'; the verb would have been plural if the conjunction were 'and.'

In 'he makes the heaven his book,' 'makes' is a factitive verb and takes 'book' as the objective complement, over and above its object, 'heaven.'

### EXERCISES

Explain—'the horrors of the deed'; 'the terrors of the skies'; 'the heaven his book'; 'the earth his sober inn.'

## A PSALM OF LIFE

*New Words :*

<b>psalm</b>	<b>numbers</b>	<b>slumbers</b>	<b>earnest</b>
<b>destined</b>	<b>stout</b>	<b>muffled</b>	<b>drums</b>
<b>funeral</b>	<b>grave</b>	<b>bivouac</b>	<b>solemn</b>
<b>forlorn</b>	<b>achieving</b>	<b>pursuing</b>	

Tell me not, in mournful numbers,  
Life is but an empty dream!—  
For the soul is dead that slumbers,  
And things are not what they seem.

Life is real! Life is earnest!  
And the grave is not its goal;  
“Dust thou art, to dust returnest,”  
Was not spoken of the soul.

Not enjoyment, and not sorrow,  
Is our destined end or way;  
But to act, that each to-morrow  
Finds us farther than to-day.

Art is long, and time is fleeting,  
And our hearts, though stout and brave,  
Still, like muffled drums, are beating  
Funeral marches to the grave.



In the world's broad field of battle,  
In the bivouac of Life,  
Be not like dumb, driven cattle!  
Be a hero in the strife.

Trust no Future, howe'er pleasant!  
Let the dead Past bury its dead!  
Act—act in the living Present!  
Heart within and God o'erhead!

Lives of great men all remind us,  
We can make our lives sublime,  
And, departing, leave behind us  
Footprints on the sands of time;—

Footprints that perhaps another  
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,  
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,  
Seeing, shall take heart again.

Let us, then, be up and doing,  
With a heart for any fate;  
Still achieving, still pursuing,  
Learn to labour and to wait.

—H. W. Longfellow.

## NOTES

## I. Grammatical :

In 'Not enjoyment and not sorrow' etc., 'and' has almost the force of 'or' and so the finite verb ('is') is singular.

In 'learn to labour and to wait,' 'to labour' and 'to wait' are noun-infinitives and objects of 'learn.'

## II. General :

'Psalm' (pronounced 'sahm') is a sacred song or hymn. 'Numbers' means 'verses.' The plural form is always used in this sense.

'Bivouac' is an encampment in the open, without tents.

## EXERCISES

1. Why is the poem called a psalm?
2. What does the poet teach us in the poem?
3. What lessons do we derive from the lives of great men?
4. Explain—
  - (a) Art is long and time is fleeting,  
And our hearts, though stout and brave,  
Still like muffled drums are beating  
Funeral marches to the grave.
  - (b) Trust no Future, howe'er pleasant,  
Let the dead Past bury its dead.



## AFTER BLENHEIM

*New Words :*

**rivulet**

**skull**

**childing**

**ploughshare**

**expectant**

**rout**

**rotting**

**quoth**

*New Idioms :*

**make out**

It was a summer evening,  
Old Kaspar's work was done,  
And he before his cottage door  
Was sitting in the sun;  
And by him sported on the green  
His little grandchild, Wilhelmine.

She saw her brother, Peterkin  
Roll something large and round  
Which he beside the rivulet  
In playing there had found;  
He came to ask what he had found  
That was so large and smooth and round.

Old Kaspar took it from the boy  
Who stood expectant by;  
And then the old man shook his head,  
And with a natural sigh,  
'Tis some poor fellow's skull,' said he,  
'Who fell in the great victory.'

'I find them in the garden,  
For there's many here about,  
And often when I go to plough  
The ploughshare turns them out,  
For many thousand men,' said he,  
'Were slain in that great victory.'

'Now tell us what 'twas all about,'  
Young Peterkin he cries;  
And little Wilhelmine looks up  
With wonder-waiting eyes;  
'Now tell us all about the war,  
And what they fought each other for.'

'It was the English,' Kaspar cried,  
'Who put the French to rout;  
But what they fought each other for  
I could not well make out.  
But everybody said,' quoth he,  
'That 'twas a famous victory.'

'My father lived at Blenheim then,  
Yon little stream hard by;  
They burnt his dwelling to the ground,  
And he was forced to fly;  
So with his wife and child he fled,  
Nor had he where to rest his head.



'With fire and sword the country round  
Was wasted far and wide,  
And many a childing mother then  
And new-born baby died;  
But things like that, you know, must be  
At every famous victory.

'They say it was a shocking sight  
After the field was won;  
For many thousand bodies here  
Lay rotting in the sun;  
But things like that, you know, must be  
After a famous victory.

'Great praise the Duke of Marlboro' won  
And our good Prince Eugene; '  
'Why, 'twas a very wicked thing!'  
Said little Wilhelmine;  
'Nay, nay, my little girl,' quoth he,  
'It was a famous victory.'

'And everybody praised the Duke  
Who this great fight did win.'  
'But what good came of it at last?'  
Quoth little Peterkin:—

'Why, that I cannot tell,' said he,  
'But 'twas a famous victory.'

—Robert Southey.

## NOTES

## I. Grammatical :

In 'It was a summer evening' 'it' simply introduces the real subject, *viz.*, 'evening' which comes after the verb. In grammar it is known as *Anticipatory* or *Introductory It*. 'Peterkin' is the diminutive form of 'Peter' and 'rivulet' of 'river.'

'To ask' in 'He came to ask' is *gerundial infinitive*.

'Quoth' is an obsolete verb in the past tense, meaning 'said,' and is generally used in the *First Person* and *Third person singular*, the subject being always placed after it.

## II. General :

The battle of Blenheim (1704) was fought between the French on one side and the English and the Austrians on the other, to check the power of Louis XIV of France.

'Rout' means 'complete defeat.'

'Childing' means 'about to bear a child.'

Prince Eugene (pronounced 'Yu-jeen') was the Austrian commander, and an ally of the English.

## EXERCISES

1. What does Kaspar think of the great victory at Blenheim? Do the children agree with him?
2. Give your own idea about wars in general.
3. Explain—
  - (a) What they fought each other for I could not well make out.
  - (b) 'Why, that I cannot tell,' said he, 'But 'twas a famous victory.'



# COWARDICE

New Words :

cowards

(cowardice)

valiant



WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Cowards die many times before their death;  
The valiant never taste of death but once.  
Of all the wonders that I yet have heard,  
It seems to me most strange that man should fear,  
Seeing that death, a necessary end,  
Will come, when it will come.

—William Shakespeare.

## NOTES

### Grammatical :

Supply ' death ' after ' fear ' as its object, in ' men should fear.'

## EXERCISE

Why does the poet say that cowards die before their death?